

THE TIMES

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Cabinet unites behind call for delay

Major rules out joining EMU in 1999

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR yesterday effectively ruled out British membership of a single European currency in 1999 with a hardened Cabinet line intended to unite the Tories in the run-up to the election.

The Government's most sceptical stance yet on the euro was seen by some Conservative MPs as the Prime Minister's boldest election initiative so far — and as a signal that he might be considering an early poll.

The statement, which also called for the European Union to delay the proposed start date of January 1, 1999, came after a 90-minute Cabinet debate on monetary union. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, emerged from Downing Street to say that it was "very unlikely" that Britain would sign up on the target date. And the Prime Minister swiftly followed with a declaration that both Britain's participation and the single currency itself were "very unlikely" at that date.

Even the Euro-enthusiast Kenneth Clarke agreed, adding that he was doubtful whether anyone would be in position to start in 1999.

Although the official wait-and-see policy was not formally abandoned yesterday, senior Cabinet sources virtually closed off any chance of Britain adopting the euro in 1999 when they said the preparatory legislation would not feature in the first Queen's speech after the election. They also said that it was unlikely that the necessary measures — such as making the Bank of

England formally independent — would come forward during the next parliamentary session, which is expected to run until the late autumn of next year.

Once the impact of the various Cabinet statements had sunk in, Conservative MPs voiced relief that an approach that could unite most of the party had been forged. The former Chancellor Norman Lamont said: "A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step. I welcome anything that makes it less likely that we shall join the single currency."

The shift added to the electioneering mood at Westminster and made several MPs wonder whether the Prime Minister — who has consistently signalled that he favours May 1 — is considering going to the country earlier. Various other developments this week, including the announcement of a replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* and hints that the Moors murderer Myra Hindley will be kept in prison for life, have had an electoral flavour about them.

The Cabinet's move will also add to the pressure on Tony Blair to take a similar line. The Labour leadership has signalled privately that it would probably rule out joining the first wave of the single currency shortly after coming to office. Mr Blair will now face demands to make that position clear to avoid giving the Tories an advantage.

Yesterday's statements from the Cabinet came after a

discussion of a Treasury paper setting out the criteria for determining whether it was safe for monetary union to go ahead. It concluded that the necessary figures would not be available until the end of the year, and was clearly intended to vindicate Mr Clarke's view that the wait-and-see policy must be retained.

But the key shift came in the Cabinet's decision — apparently pushed by Mr Major and backed by Mr Clarke — to make a "preliminary assessment" of the prospects.

It concluded that "upon the information available to us at present, we reached the conclusion that it was very unlikely, though not impossible, that countries' performance against the criteria would be sufficiently clear and stable for it to proceed safely on January 1, 1999. On that basis there is a strong argument for delay by the EU as a whole. If it did proceed without reliable convergence we would not, of course, be part of it."

Although some Treasury sources insisted last night that nothing had changed, Mr Clarke's friends said that he had been happy to go along with the new stance. He agreed it was "wildly unrealistic" both that the convergence criteria could be properly met or that Britain would be able to go in at the appointed time.

"He has always thought it doubtful but he has wanted to get the best for Britain."

Peter Riddell, page 12
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Leading article, page 23



Michelle, who suffered liver failure 13 days after taking drugs, including ecstasy

Drugs girl, 15 died after transplant was refused

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL aged 15 died after she was refused a liver transplant by doctors on the "moral grounds" that she had experimented with drugs and her mother was drug user, an inquiry was told yesterday.

Carolin Paul, 37, told a fatal accident inquiry that doctors at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary had told her that her daughter would die without a transplant. She was then told by Dr Niall Finlayson that a team decision had been made not to give Michelle a transplant.

Mrs Paul said: "He said the assessment had been made on moral grounds but added that it was not his decision. I asked if that meant her background and he said her background and her admitting that she had been experimenting with drugs and my own history."

"I knew Michelle had acted irresponsibly by experimenting with drugs but knew that, when she woke up with the reality of what it could do to her, she would take care of herself," she said.

Mrs Paul said that Dr Finlayson then offered to arrange a meeting with the consultant, Hilary Sankey, and had told Mrs Paul that while he was in favour of a transplant, he was not a surgeon and could not make a surgeon operate. Mrs Paul claimed that Dr. Sankey was abrupt and certainly not compassionate. "She told me it cost £60,000 for a liver and, if they gave it to Michelle, they would be denying someone else."

"She said she believed Michelle was now medically unfit. When I asked her about the moral decision she said 'you are not listening to me, I said your daughter is now medically unfit. I am not giving her a transplant and that's final.'

then she walked out." Mrs Paul's evidence was backed up by her family doctor, Dr John Wiseman, who told the inquiry at Aberdeen Sheriff Court that he had written to the hospital asking why she had been turned down but received no reply. A subsequent phone call to the transplant unit had informed him that there were concerns about post-transplant care because of the family history of drug abuse.

Dr Wiseman, a partner at the Woodside Medical Centre in Aberdeen, said he believed



Michelle should have received a transplant. "In this case you have a fairly innocent 15-year-old girl who was denied the opportunity of transplant on the basis of her psycho-social background — not a fair way of coming to a decision."

Michelle suffered liver failure in November 1995, 13 days after taking drugs, including ecstasy, at a local rave. She died six days after being admitted to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary's transplant unit.

Mrs Paul visited Michelle five days after she was taken

Continued on page 2, col 5

IRA men escape trial over break-out

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FIVE IRA terrorists and an armed robber will never be punished for breaking out of a top security jail after the collapse yesterday of their second trial.

Mr Justice Kay ended the trial of the men, who escaped from a special secure unit at Whitemoor jail near March in Cambridgeshire, because of a two-page feature article in the London Evening Standard on Wednesday.

Max Hastings, the editor, is to appear before the trial judge today to explain why he published material that prevented the men from having a fair trial.

An earlier trial had also been abandoned and the judge said that medical evidence suggested five of them had deteriorated mentally. Legal restrictions meant that the men's criminal histories should not have been men-

tioned by the media during the trial. Mr Justice Kay said at Woolwich Crown Court: "The interests of justice cannot be served by a third attempt at this trial. It would be almost three years after the event and medical evidence suggests five of the defendants have deteriorated."

It is very unusual for such a serious and important case to be stayed. I remind myself the evidence against these defendants is very strong. Indeed they are serving long prison sentences."

But he said the law for the defendants was the same as for everyone. "They are entitled to that — whatever they have done," he said.

The six defendants were: Paul Magee, 48, jailed for life for murdering an SAS captain and Glen Goodman, a special constable; Gilbert MacNamee, 36, serving 25 years

for involvement in the IRA Hyde Park bombing; Peter Sherry, 31, serving life for conspiracy to cause explosions; Liam O'Dubhlin, 34, serving life for conspiracy to cause explosions, and Liam McCotter, 33, serving 17 years for terrorist offences. Andrew Russell, a non IRA prisoner, was convicted of armed robbery and hijacking.

They had been held in Belmarsh prison near Woolwich, southeast London, awaiting trial for escaping from Whitemoor in 1994 and firearms offences.

They argued that the Evening Standard article about Belmarsh, headlined "Alcatraz on Thames — No Way Out", published on Wednesday, was prejudicial to a fair trial. It included pictures of Magee and Glen Goodman, and described them as "terrorists".

Knight Frank, the Edinburgh estate agents, were trying to contact Maruma's representatives and the so-called Pavarotti Foundation. Colin Strang Steel, at Knight Frank, said: "As far as I am concerned the island is still up for sale. If Maruma has restructured his finances, however, it may be that there is not the same pressure to sell now."

Pavarotti's agents in New York were unable to shed any light on the situation.

The developments came a day after

islanders were refused lottery funding to buy Eigg in partnership with Highland Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Man freed over 'tape confession'

A man who was secretly taped confessing to his wife that he had tried to poison her with strychnine walked free from the Old Bailey after a judge ruled the recording was inadmissible as evidence. Judge Michael Coombe ruled, after three days of legal argument, that the recording amounted to entrapment.

Arts cash freeze

The Arts Council of England was criticised after announcing a grants budget which means that most organisations will see no increase in funding.

Leading article, page 23

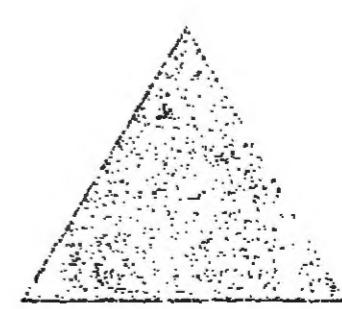
Market hits high

The stock market reached an all-time high yesterday, with the FTSE-100 reaching a peak of 4273.4, before closing at 4271.5.

Stock market, page 33



A good idea.



A bloody brilliant idea.

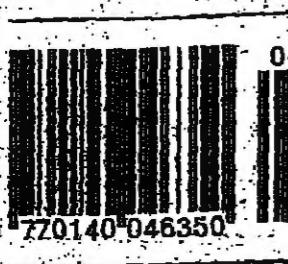
Interest rate court win for investor

A small investor has won an victory in court against a building society for paying him uncompetitive rates of interest on his savings. The case could open the floodgates for millions of other investors.

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Pavarotti 'planning 3,000-pupil college on Eigg'

By STEPHEN ENGLISH

THE sale of Eigg descended into confusion yesterday when it was claimed that Luciano Pavarotti was interested in setting up a European classical and operatic music college for 3,000 pupils on the tiny Hebridean isle.

Highland Council revealed that it had been approached by two men claiming to represent the Pavarotti Foundation who had plans to establish a European centre of excellence.

Dr Heinz Deiter Kals, a German consultant, said that he was acting for the

Italian tenor and had the approval of Eigg's laird, Marlin Eckhard Maruma, a German holistic artist, to start talks with the council. The scheme was dubbed "abundant" by islanders and "unsuitable" by the council.

Pavarotti's possible involvement was not yesterday's only development. There were doubts as to whether Eigg — present population 63 — would even be for sale after it was claimed that one of two large loans entered into by Maruma had been taken over by an unnamed body.

Yesterday Highland Council and

Knight Frank, the Edinburgh estate agents, were trying to contact Maruma's representatives and the so-called Pavarotti Foundation. Colin Strang Steel, at Knight Frank, said: "As far as I am concerned the island is still up for sale. If Maruma has restructured his finances, however, it may be that there is not the same pressure to sell now."

Pavarotti's agents in New York were unable to shed any light on the situation. The developments came a day after islanders were refused lottery funding to buy Eigg in partnership with Highland Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

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Husband goes free despite 'poison confession' to wife

By Richard Dooce



A MAN who was secretly taping confessing to his wife that he had tried to poison her with strychnine walked free from the Old Bailey yesterday after a judge ruled the recording was inadmissible as evidence.

John Copeland, 61, of Southgate, north London, was arrested after his Greek-born wife went to police with the recording. Police then investigated the deaths of three other women he had known: his first wife, a former landlady and a friend.

Judge Michael Coombe ruled, after three days of legal argument, that the recording amounted to entrapment. He said that it showed Mrs Copeland offering to stay with her husband on condition that he admitted trying to poison her. The judge decided that this amounted to trickery or inducement under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

The tape, made by Efytchia Copeland, 54, formed the principal part of the prosecution's case. It offered no evidence on the charge of attempted murder and two of administering poison... after the judge's decision.

Mr Copeland declined to comment as he left court. His estranged wife was at home in Enfield, north London last night where a friend said she felt "let down" by the judicial system.

The court was told that Mrs Copeland had hidden the tape recorder in her car when she met her husband outside a Beefeater restaurant to talk about a reconciliation. She believed that bouts of illness had been bought on by her husband poisoning her meals; she had been taken to hospital after collapsing with stomach pains and vomiting, and suffered frequent diarrhoea and other stomach upsets.

Once Mr Copeland, a retired civil engineer who once worked for Camden council in London, was arrested in 1995, police reopened the files into



John Copeland: denied attempted murder

the deaths of his first wife Patricia, as well as a former woman friend, Eunice Bradshaw, and a former landlady, Louise Young. The police, based at Enfield, worked in conjunction with the National Poisons Information centre, but no charges were brought.

Mr Copeland's first wife had died in 1969 at the age of 30. An inquest was told that she took an overdose of drink and drugs at the couple's home and the official cause of death was barbiturate poisoning. She was known to have been a heavy drinker.

His landlady, who was in her 60s, died in 1984 from an illness after she had taken Mr.

Copeland into her home as a lodger and they had become close friends. Two years later, Mr Copeland's former girlfriend died aged 62 from a suspected heart attack.

Mr Copeland met his second wife through a lonely hearts advertisement which he placed in a north London newspaper. They married at Enfield register office in July 1994.

Her daughter by a former marriage then married Mark Perrin, 37, who Mr Copeland was also alleged to have tried to poison, this time by placing weedkiller in his tea. Mr Perrin was rushed to Chase Farm Hospital, north London, where he was detained for eight days.

He suffered acute liver failure and doctors suspected he had hepatitis. The prosecution offered no evidence on the charge of administering poison.

Judge Coombe told the prosecution team: "You have obviously taken immense care in this difficult case from the beginning. I certainly agree with the view of the Crown and order that formal not guilty verdicts be entered."

Last night a friend of Mrs Copeland said: "She made the tape out of sheer desperation so someone could help her. This was crucial evidence and she put her life in jeopardy to get the confessions on tape."

It is not the first time that courts have refused to allow evidence when secret recordings have been made of suspects. The case against Colin Stagg, accused of the murder of Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common, collapsed when a judge ruled that attempts by an undercover policeman to encourage Stagg to confess had amounted to entrapment.

In another recent case, Keith Hall was cleared of the murder of his wife, Patricia. The jury was not allowed to hear a tape made by an undercover policeman in which he is alleged to have confessed to the killing.

His landlady, who was in her 60s, died in 1984 from an illness after she had taken Mr.



Margaret Orpen claimed that she made love with Mr Glover in his car up a quiet country lane in October 1995.

Vicar cleared of sex charge after court told of accuser's delusions

By PAUL WILKINSON

A VICAR accused of having sex in his car with a woman parishioner was cleared yesterday after a church court was told that she suffered delusions resulting from a psychiatric disorder.

The Rev Edward Glover, 39, married with two daughters, had denied committing adultery with Margaret Orpen on the front seat of his Volvo in a quiet lane in his parish of Trimdon, Co Durham.

Mrs Orpen, 39, a mother of three, had turned to the priest for counselling in 1995 after the death of her father. She had claimed that she had become pregnant as a result, but had later miscarried.

A Church of England consistory court sitting at Auckland Castle, the 14th-century seat of the Bishop of Durham, was told that new evidence had been produced which questioned her state of mind. Other medical evidence

would also show that she was not pregnant at the time and there were doubts of other evidence she had brought forward.

The Rev Rupert Burrell, QC, the diocesan chancellor and a circuit judge, who presided over the hearing, described the case as one of "enormous sadness" for both people. He said: "It is the psychiatrist's view that the allegations of adultery were prompted by her delusional state and have no basis in fact." He agreed to a request from the prosecution that the charge of conduct unbecoming a cleric in Holy orders should be withdrawn.

Outside the hearing, Richard Langdon, Mr Glover's solicitor, read a statement in which the vicar said he was "very pleased" by the decision. He said: "He has been accused by Mrs Orpen of many things and his family has been harassed with telephone calls at all hours of the day and night. Allegations

Glover felt only sadness for Mrs Orpen. After the hearing the Rt Rev Michael Turnbull, the Bishop of Durham, said he would find a new post for the priest as soon as he was passed medically fit. Mr Glover resigned as priest-in-charge of St Albans and St Pauls at Trimdon a year ago, claiming stress-related problems. He and his wife Margaret had separated before the adultery allegation and still live apart.

Mr Langdon said there was no criticism of the way the case, which is estimated to have cost the church around £25,000, had been brought. Mrs Orpen's claims were first aired in *The Sun* in December 1995. Nicola Harding, the solicitor presenting the case against Mr Glover, read out a note that Mrs Orpen had passed to her that morning in which she said: "I do not withdraw my allegation of adultery, but I realise that there is not enough evidence to prove the case. I agree to the case being withdrawn."

Driver fined for dozing in queue

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN EXHAUSTED driver caused a traffic jam after he fell asleep in stationary traffic. As the cars in front drove off, Hugh Fingland remained slumped over the steering wheel, oblivious to angry motorists waiting behind him.

Eventually the mortified businessman was woken by a policeman after a woman queuing behind his Audi called the police on her mobile telephone from the A10 at Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. Fingland, 53, admitted carelessness driving when he appeared before magistrates in Cambridge yesterday and was fined £160. Sentencing him and ordering him to pay £50 and have his licence endorsed with three penalty points, magistrates said the offence

Radio 1 to serve breakfast from the North

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE Radio 1 disc jockey Mark Radcliffe joked yesterday that it took half an hour to negotiate the removal of the station's showcase breakfast show up the M1 from London to Manchester.

Radcliffe, 38, from Bolton, told Matthew Bannister, Controller of Radio 1, that that was the price he would have to pay to persuade him and his partner, Marc Riley, known as The Boy Lard, to succeed Chris Evans. It was not money, he said, as he was wheeled out by BBC public relations officers at the Lass O'Gowrie public house around the corner from the BBC's northern headquarters.

Asked what set him apart from Evans, he said: "About £25 million. I would imagine." Then he added: "There is a kind of illusion that there is this big bag of money with 'breakfast show' written on it. Left at the reception desk every Friday, and that they have Tipped out Chris Evans's name and put ours on. I can assure you that is not the case. We are getting considerably less than Chris Evans, but we are happy with the money."

There are many more differences between Radcliffe and his predecessor. Radcliffe, the son of a journalist, has a grounding in classical music, specialised on his late-night Radio 1 show in promoting smaller indie bands and cultivates a caustic, but affectionate, wit. Unlike Evans, a Manchester United supporter, he follows the unfashionable Manchester City.

Breakfast time for millions of youngsters will be less of the rollercoaster ride it was under Evans. The new team, responsible for bringing the current No 1, WhiteTown, to a wider audience, have some assurances that they will be able to play their own type of music.

Radcliffe played down his more sophisticated style by posing with Riley, pint of Manchester's finest in one hand and cigarette in the other, with a gritty northern city backdrop. He refused an outside alarm clock proffered by one hopeful photographer.

Told to smile and look happier by the phalanx of cameramen, Radcliffe shot back: "We are miserable as sin. We don't want to do the breakfast show because it means getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning."

Evans, whose independent production company was reputed to earn £1.4 million for the contract, left after he was told that he could not work a four-day week. Radcliffe, who also presents Channel 4's music programme *The White Room*, takes over the show from February 17.

Store worker, 77, beats sell-by date

By LERINNE SMITH

A WOMAN of 77 has struck a blow for older workers by beating 1,000 applicants to a job in a supermarket fish counter.

Doris Morse, a great-grandmother, lost her previous job as a nursing home assistant last year when her employers discovered her age. She was turned away by ten other companies where she sought a new job, but is now the oldest employee of the Asda chain.

"I don't want to sit around twiddling my thumbs all day. I want to work and meet people," said Mrs Morse, from Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan. "I also love fish. I'm pretty fit for my age and I have plenty of experience as a fishmonger, so I suppose I fitted the bill." She began her

Sister of Whitaker's chief joins son's coup attempt

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE son and sister of the chairman of the Whitaker's publishing house were united last night in their insistence that he should stand down.

Sally Whitaker, group managing director of J. Whitaker & Sons Ltd, publisher of Whitaker's Almanack and The Bookseller, said it was time for her brother, David, to retire as chairman. She said that she would not be diverted from achieving this and made it clear that she had the support of her fellow directors, of whom David Whitaker's son, Martin, is one.

Yesterday *The Times* disclosed David Whitaker's claim that his son was behind a coup to oust him. Miss Whitaker responded that her brother was putting himself before the



Sally Whitaker: urged brother to stand down

company. "David is pursuing his own interests at the expense of the company and all those who work for it. He is in a minority of one," she said.

In a statement Miss Whitaker added that she re-

gretted that he had felt the need to talk about his grievances, although she understood "it must be very difficult to accept that it is time to step down from a role which one has held for many years".

Last night Miss Whitaker, 57, and her nephew, 38, put on a united front and posed for a photograph at the publishing house's offices in Bloomsbury, London. The board is understood to have met yesterday without David Whitaker.

David Whitaker had said that his sister was to step down for Martin to become managing director, and that another chairman was to take his place. He said that he would step down at some point, but not yet. "Putsches of this kind are ugly. I would wish to make my contempt widely known."

Cambridgeshire Police said it was fortunate that the car had been stationary. "Concentration levels fall as you become more tired and this is a real hazard when driving," a spokesman said, adding that motorists should take rests.



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5,000 immigrants entered illegally

Police smash gang which smuggled Turks into Britain

By DENIS NEWSON AND DANIEL McGROarty

A GANG that is believed to have smuggled more than 5,000 illegal immigrants into Britain has been uncovered by a joint police operation in Britain and The Netherlands.

The seven alleged ringleaders, arrested yesterday in Rotterdam, were said to have earned more than £20,000 a week. They smuggled mainly young Turks in an operation that is thought to have been running since 1985.

Detectives believe that the gang brought in ten immigrants a week. They wanted to come to Britain because they saw it as "an easy place to hide and where you can enjoy good living".

The Turks are finding Britain is an ideal country in which to hide and enjoy EU living standards. This is because there are no identity cards and town halls don't keep population registers. It's easy for them to avoid detection," Joost de Bruin, spokesman for the Dutch military police said.

The immigrants were hidden in false compartments on cargo ships sailing from Rotterdam to British ports. They were met and taken to safe houses across the country, where they were given advice.

"Many illegally took jobs in Holland so that they could

about how to claim benefits and find jobs and accommodation, and how to avoid detection.

The breakthrough came earlier this week when detectives found two Turkish immigrants hidden in a false compartment on a ship which docked at Sheerness, Kent. They were arrested with a crew member who was part of the smuggling ring.

Dutch police then seized the ringleaders in Rotterdam, which police said became the smugglers' base in 1993 after French authorities came close to infiltrating them. The men arrested were all Turks. Drugs, false passports and thousands of pounds were seized as well.

Also arrested were 14 men waiting to be smuggled across the North Sea to a British port. "Each passenger paid £2,000 for the trip," Mr de Bruin said.

"It was a smoothly organised gang and we calculate that they were taking an average of ten people across every week. The immigrants were flown from Turkey or made the journey to Holland by car, where they hid in safe houses.

"Many illegally took jobs in

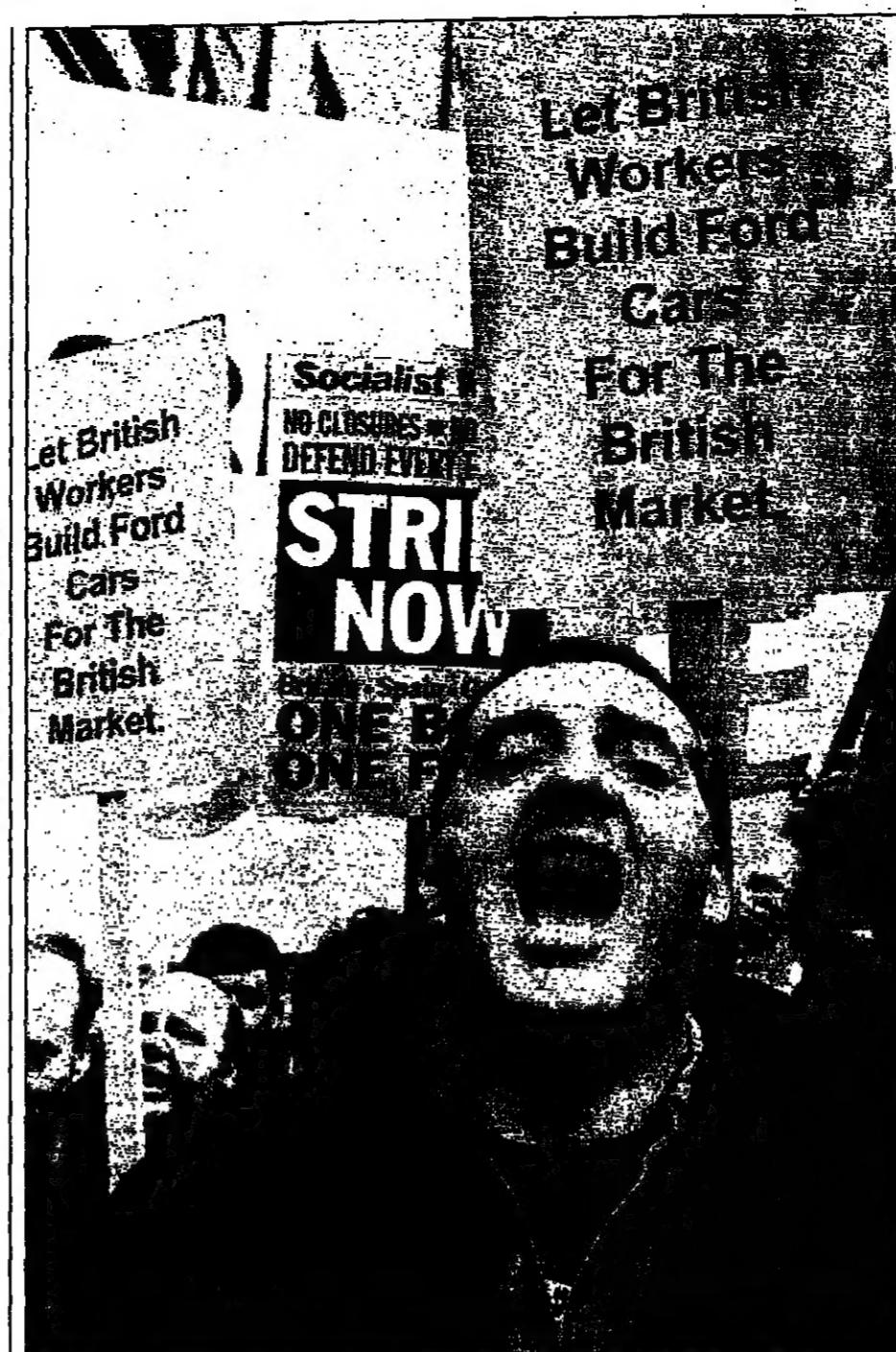
earn the money to pay for their clandestine passage. In Britain they were smuggled ashore and taken by car to join their families in towns all over the country."

The Home Office was reluctant to discuss whether Britain was regarded as a "soft touch" by illegal immigrants. "We believe we have effective safeguards and we have close and ongoing co-operation with the Dutch authorities on this and similar operations," a spokesman said.

Detective Inspector Tony Masters, an officer in Dover, said he was not surprised by the scale of the immigration racket. "In 1995 we found 650 illegal immigrants at Dover and Ramsgate and about 350 last year, so consider how many more ports there are and we obviously know many sneak through."

We have close relations with our colleagues in The Netherlands on such operations and ongoing intelligence is closely pooled."

Last night police were questioning the crews of six Dutch freighters which were thought to have been involved in the smuggling. Officials said that more arrests could be expected.



Workers demonstrate against job losses outside Ford's London offices yesterday

Workers to vote on Ford strike

By OLIVER AUGUST

FORD workers throughout the country are to be balloted on holding a strike after the company confirmed that 1,300 jobs are to be lost at Halewood on Merseyside, with Escort production concentrated in Germany and Spain.

The company told trade union leaders at talks in London that it planned to build a new, Escort-based vehicle at Halewood from 2000, when production of the Escort is at an end. Union officials supported by a demonstration organised by human rights groups from Halewood and other Ford plants, announced a ballot to try to save the jobs.

Tony Woodley, a national official of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that Ford employees at Halewood had increased productivity and did not deserve to lose their jobs. "There is genuine anger among Ford workers. They could not have done more to produce quality vehicles and they are as good as anyone in Europe."

Union officials said the decision had been taken only because of weak labour protection in Britain. A ballot to be held as soon as possible, with the result expected within weeks.

The company said it had agreed to the union's request to meet the chairman of Ford in Europe, Jac Nasser, probably in the next week.

Pennington, page 29



Mendham growing role

Princess's private assistant leaves job

By EMMA WILKINS

VICTORIA MENDHAM, private assistant to Diana, Princess of Wales, has left her post just weeks after the pair shared a holiday together in the Caribbean.

Miss Mendham, 27, who worked for the Princess for seven years, earned £24,000 as a secretary. She was one of the few employees who gave up calling the Princess "Ma'am" as their friendship grew. Although her original role in the Princess's office was minor — dealing with correspondence — it had expanded after the Princess's divorce last summer to include planning her diary and dealing with press inquiries.

Several other members of the Princess's staff have left in recent years.

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Children should keep away from pets treated for fleas

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

CATS, dogs, and Gulf War soldiers are not the only ones at risk from insecticides and repellents, whether designed to kill fleas or mosquitoes. Children, too, can suffer from dangerous side-effects if care is not taken in the use of pesticides.

Research from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas has confirmed the existence of Gulf War syndrome. Greater than normal exposure to insect repellents, flea collars and the anti-nerve gas pyridostigmine were common factors in patients with the syndrome. Risk of joint and muscle pain, muscle weakness and fatigue, and changes in sensation in the hands and feet, were proportional to the amount of exposure to the government-issued insect repellent, which contains 75 per cent deet (N,N-diethyl m toluidine). Cognitive impairment — loss of intellect — was

greatest in those soldiers who had worn anti-flea collars.

The faulty batches of the anti-flea preparation Diopel — which has recently caused the death of several British pets — contain diazinon, an organo-phosphorous pesticide. Diazinon compounds can be absorbed through the skin and should be applied only by someone wearing rubber gloves. The pet should not be handled by any child for at least six hours after application. Ivor Deutscher, who owns the Wellington Veterinary Pharmacy in Knightsbridge, said that pets treated with fenthion, another popular organo-phosphorous insecticide, should be kept away from children for at least eight hours.

When deet has been liberally applied to children, it can cause a dangerously slow heartbeat. Deet has also been known to damage children's brains, causing fits and a manic psychosis. Soldiers and travellers to countries where malaria is endemic will be relieved to know that there is a safe, and as yet equally effective, alternative. It is an extract of refined lemon eucalyptus oil and is marketed as Mosi-Guard Natural.

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French authorities suppressed the truth and allowed innocent farmer to be sacrificed, says author

Cold War scientist 'was killed by Soviet hit squad'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

SIR Jack Drummond, the scientist and civil servant murdered with his family in 1952 during a camping trip in the South of France, was the victim of a Soviet counter-espionage hit squad, according to a book published today.

William Reymond, a French journalist who has spent several years researching the case, claims Drummond was a British secret agent killed by assassins working for the Soviet Union and that Gaston Dominici, the French peasant found guilty of the crime, was innocent.

In *Dominici Not Guilty* — *The Assassins Retraced* (Le Monde, £12.99), Reymond says the truth was suppressed or ignored by French officials "who could not admit ... that a hit squad armed by the Soviets had been able to strike at foreigners in the very heart of France".

The bodies of Drummond, 61, his wife, Anne, 46, and their daughter, Elizabeth, 10, were found on August 5, 1952, near their tent outside Lurs, in Provence. Drummond and his wife had been shot and their daughter beaten to death with a rifle butt.

After an investigation lasting more than a year, police obtained a confession from Dominici, 76, the illiterate head of the large farming family that owned the land on which the family had been camping. Dominici retracted his confession within hours, but partly on the evidence of family members, who also



Gaston Dominici made a confession to gendarmes after his arrest, but retracted it within hours

later changed their minds. Dominici was condemned to death in 1954. Amid widespread concern the sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. Dominici was pardoned on Bastille Day 1960 by de Gaulle and died in 1963.

According to Reymond, far

from being the victim of random violence, Drummond was a British agent who had been killed in the ferocious battle for scientific intelligence during the Cold War.

Drummond was allegedly sacrificed because the French authorities were not prepared to admit to the murder of an allied spy "under the noses of counter-espionage, the military and police". Drummond, an expert in nutrition, was recruited by British intelligence in 1944 and later worked on the top-secret chemical defence project at Porton Down. He was knighted during the Second World War.

Citing fresh American evi-

dence, Reymond alleges that, during the postwar years, the nutritionist was active in Operation Paperclip, the Anglo-American attempt to recruit Nazi scientific expertise, and may have taken part in Project 63, aimed at protecting allied scientists and others with specialised knowledge from the Soviets.

"The Russians knew all about this and employed the same methods, with a certain

predilection for kidnapping and assassination," Reymond writes. "In 1952, at least three scientists were victims of the Soviet riposte: a German, Erick Kramer, and two Britons, Dr Peck and ... Sir Jack Drummond."

Reymond writes that, four days after the murder of the Drummonds, German police arrested one William Bartkowski, a petty crook wanted for a number of thefts and other crimes. During an interrogation by German police in November, Bartkowski admitted taking part in the murders of both Kramer and Drummond and named as his accomplices Carlo Soite, a Greek, a Swiss identified as Moradis, and Roman Moesto, a Spaniard.

According to a written ac-

count of the interrogation, dated November 12, 1952, and obtained by Reymond, Bartkowski said he had been recruited in prison by a Russian who told him to contact the three men on his release.

Soite, Moradis and Moesto "in addition to their criminal activities, worked for the Soviets", Reymond writes. The

German authorities passed

the information to France and on November 24, 1952, Charles Gillard, a senior French investigator, wrote a report declaring: "Bartkowski had everything to fear by admitting to the murder of the Drummonds. But he did not hesitate to do it. What interest could he have had in doing so, if not to reveal the truth?"

Bartkowski is believed to have made similar statements to British Special Investigation Branch officers.

Inspector Gillard later went

back on his declaration

because, as a "conscientious civil servant ... he had been instructed to do so", according to Reymond.

The Dominici clan has long campaigned to clear Gaston's name. Gustave Dominici, the patriarch's son who died last year, found the Drummonds' bodies. He first corroborated his father's confession, then retracted what he had said.

Years later Gustave claimed he and his father had made

their statements because the gendarmes mistreated them.

Alain Dominici, Gustave's grandson, has twice demand-

ed that the case be reopened.

The Foreign Office said the claims would have to be "properly considered" once the book was available.

One aspect of the Drummond case has defied explanation. Four years after Drummond's death, his former secretary, June Marshall, was murdered in Dieppe. No one has ever been charged.



Sir Jack with his wife, Anne, and daughter, Elizabeth. Their bodies were found by Gaston Dominici's son

Laundryman died in tumble drier

A SAFETY warning has been sent to laundries after a man was killed in a tumble drier.

Ray Washbrook, 25, of Weywyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, died last November from multiple head injuries after entering a drier to free a piece of linen. The machine started up and he was trapped inside in temperatures up to 95F during its 20-minute cycle.

Warrendale Aircraft Services in Stevenage, for whom Mr Washbrook was working, runs a fully automated washing and laundry service for airlines. The tumble drier had been in use for only three weeks. Laundry is placed on a conveyor belt and fed into three large driers.

An inquest is still to be held but the Health and Safety Executive has alerted other users of the same equipment.

A spokesman for the HSE said: "It is believed the operator was attempting to remove a piece of linen which had not been ejected from the rear of the drier at the end of a cycle. "He entered the conveyor enclosure, taking with him the interlocking key to ensure safety, and climbed into the drier through the front-loading door, apparently believing himself to be safe. When he removed the piece of linen, however, it allowed the rear door to close and the machine began a new cycle, which trapped him inside."

The HSE has told other users how to take steps to avoid similar accidents. "There are many continuous batch washing lines in use in laundries throughout the country and users are advised to review safety systems."

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THE GREAT BIG HALIFAX VOTE

Labour and anti-gun lobby condemn cadet force plan

By ALICE THOMSON
AND DAVID CHARTER

LABOUR rounded on government proposals to encourage schoolchildren to become military cadets yesterday, claiming that it could cost taxpayers more than £5 billion. They were joined by gun-control campaigners and teaching unions, who said they were horrified at plans to help 13 to 22-year-olds to join the cadets and learn how to use firearms. Teachers dismissed the scheme as a "pre-election gimmick".

Scottish teaching unions said that after Dunblane it was "extremely unlikely" that any school would start a cadet force.

They urged John Major to promote less militaristic training. The anti-firearms lobby was "incredulous" that ministers could even suggest teaching 13-year-olds to shoot in the wake of Dunblane.

But Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, suggested that an expansion of the cadet forces could keep disadvantaged children away from "the temptations of the modern world".

The Prime Minister told MPs: "I strongly encourage participation in cadet forces and hope to see an increase in the number of youngsters taking part."

Teachers' leaders warned against the plan. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers,

said: "Discipline, teamwork and leadership are all important qualities, but it is doubtful whether they can be instilled by press-ganging unwilling pupils."

Jill Marshall-Andrews, of the Gun Control Network, said that the Government appeared to recognise the danger of guns with its Firearms (Amendment) Bill, but was encouraging the next generation "to embrace guns".

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said the proposal was a direct response to Labour's millennium volunteer scheme for 100,000 young people to do work in the community.

Philip Howard, page 18



Boys from the Combined Cadet Force at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, practise drill yesterday

Hoping for a change in the weather, or a note from mother

ONE-TIME cadets compelled to square-bash the school playground every Monday afternoon and crawl at midnight through Perthshire bogs twice a year — unless they had a note from mother — find it hard to understand why anyone should want to do it voluntarily.

But they were serious days then, with conscription not quite abolished and the basic skills of warfare still on the curriculum for 14-year-olds at



Alan Hamilton (Combined Cadet Force, 1st Battalion The Royal Scots, 1957-58) recalls his days in uniform

many a grammar school. Pupils were thought to benefit from the life-enhancing skill of dismantling, cleaning and reassembling a Bren gun in the dark. Being shouted at by the masters who officered the platoon was no worse than being shouted at in class, except that it was done in the outdoors of a bitter winter. Being shouted at by class-

mates who had wormed their way up to corporal or even sergeant, and being forbidden to shout back, was an indignity against which the madly itching serge of Royal Scots junior battle dress was no defence.

Many are eminent who have endured boy soldiering. Auberon Waugh, editor of *The Literary Review*, bore arms for three years at Downside. He said yesterday: "My school was a hooligan

school, so we were not allowed to go to camp. I remember carrying an old Lee Enfield 303. It was almost as big as me. It didn't do a lot for me but it was better than playing rugger."

Professor Norman Stone, a prefect at Glasgow Academy, recalled being promoted to corporal in his CCF unit: "They thought it a disgrace that a prefect should be in the ranks." He found that the Blanco produced a skin aler-

gy on his hands. John McCririck, the flamboyant Channel 4 racing commentator, enjoyed his time as a cadet at Harrow: "I was a brilliant field commander even though I was hopeless at everything else at school."

"I don't think the government scheme will achieve very much because it will not appeal to the problem children that it is meant to target. As it is not compulsory, only those who are

already team-spirited will join."

Denis Compton, the former England cricketer, believed his soldiering at Bell Lane School, Hendon, north London, in the 1930s gave him a sense of discipline. He drilled but cannot remember carrying guns: "It was designed to make you a good boy, I really do think it was a worthwhile exercise."

Count Nikolai Tolstoy rose to the illustrious rank of

sergeant in the CCF at Wellington: "I was a Bren gun instructor but I remember that most of the time it was rather boring. It's a male instinct to join the military, and good for discipline. But today the CCF will have to be a bit more imaginative than it was."

Today's cadet forces are mostly voluntary and vie with a wide range of other activities, sporting and intellectual, for the attention of teenagers.

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How the sixth form seized an armoury and shut a school

A little-known mutiny shook a Hampshire school in 1957. Robin Young took part.



THE OPENING social benefits which might accrue from universal service in school cader forces could well backfire. In the early summer of 1957, Peter Symonds' School in Winchester was scene of a mutiny centred on the combined cadet force's armoury. Pupils supplied themselves with a cache of 382 rifles, Bren guns, thunderbolts, and blank and live ammunition. All the classes were brought to a halt.

As the insurrection's appointed press officer, the present writer can perhaps now gain the national press coverage the schoolboys were unaccountably denied in the public prints of the time.

The school revolt followed the death of a well-respected headmaster Dr P. T. "Doc" Freeman in the autumn of 1956. The senior chemistry master was appointed acting headmaster in his place. Discipline rapidly founders.

In May 1957 some of the

school's senior boys realised

that, with control of the

armoury, with its store of

guns and ammunition, they

could bring the school to a

halt.

The armoury was duly

seized and the nearby RAF

base commanded as

headquarters, command post and social centre. The school staff's attention was

so completely distracted

that all the classrooms emp

tied, and 550 pupils took to

the playing fields, or went

out to the streets of

Winchester.

I was then 17, I spent a

morning telephoning Fleet

Street newspaper to alert

them to the fact the child

ren had taken charge of the

school. Haste from the

Daily Herald, the *New*

Chronicle, and the *Daily*

Mirror duly arrived on the

scene and were regaled with

sensational interviews by

excited third-formers and

school prefects holding

guns.

Photographs were taken

but so far as I know no

account appeared in even

the local press. One local

newspaper was owned and

edited by the wife of a

member of the school staff.

A party of sixth-formers

incensed by supposed

slights suffered at the hands

of the acting headmaster,

besieged him in his upstairs

chemistry laboratory, man-

aged him, and finally

dragged him out of the

window in a dustbin.

Pupils also called the

police in the school, alleging

that staff were brutalising

them, and took pains while

officers were in attendance

to draw attention to the lack

of security that had allowed

Others went on to Sand-

hurst and Cranley, but held

no more important a place

in school memory than the

leaders of the 1957 rebellion,

or the two navy cadets who

led their force's ill-fated

Zodiac and were never heard

of again.

Peter Symonds is now a

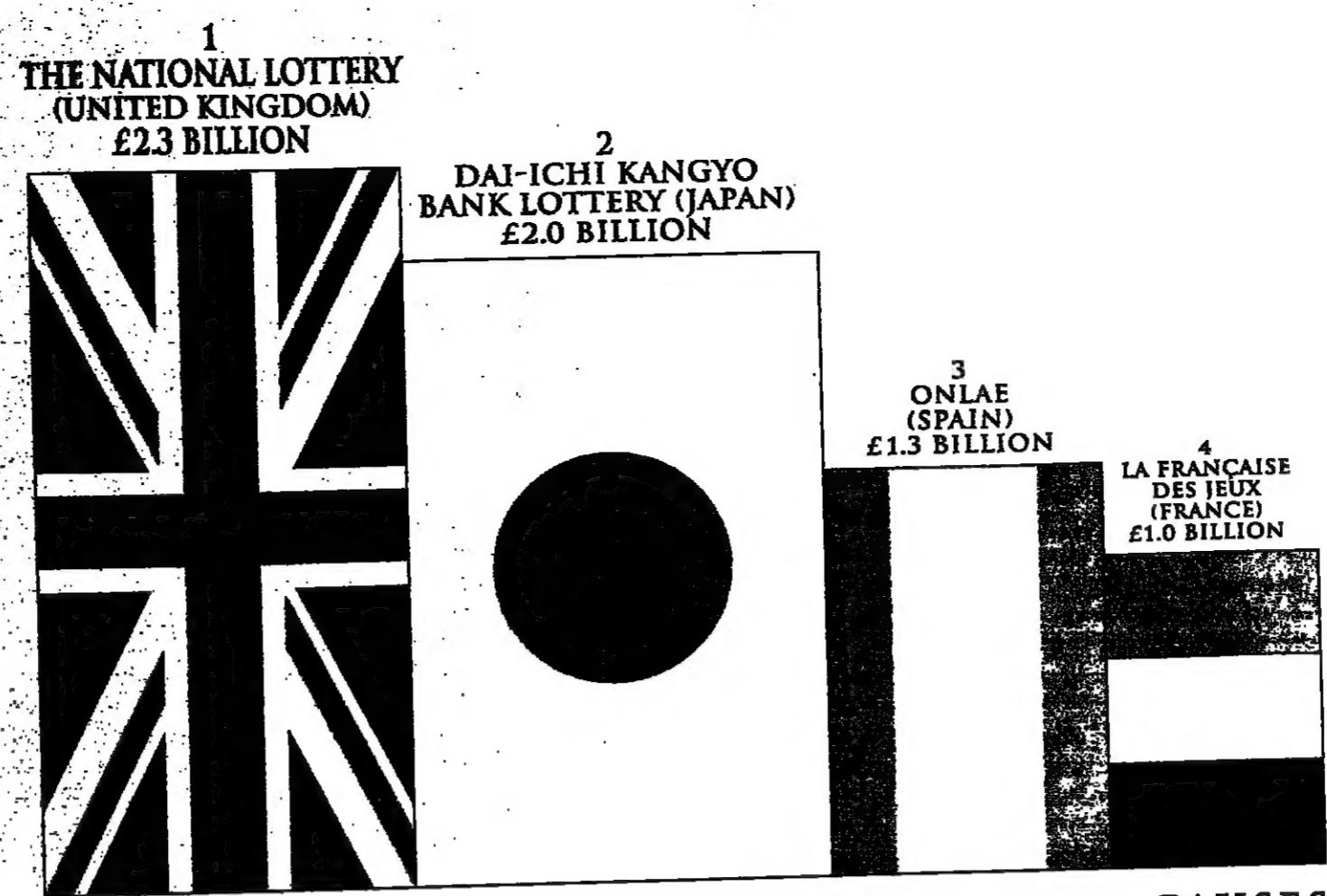
smooth-running academic

machine. What could hap-

pen when it gets its cadre

force back? Is anybody's

guess.



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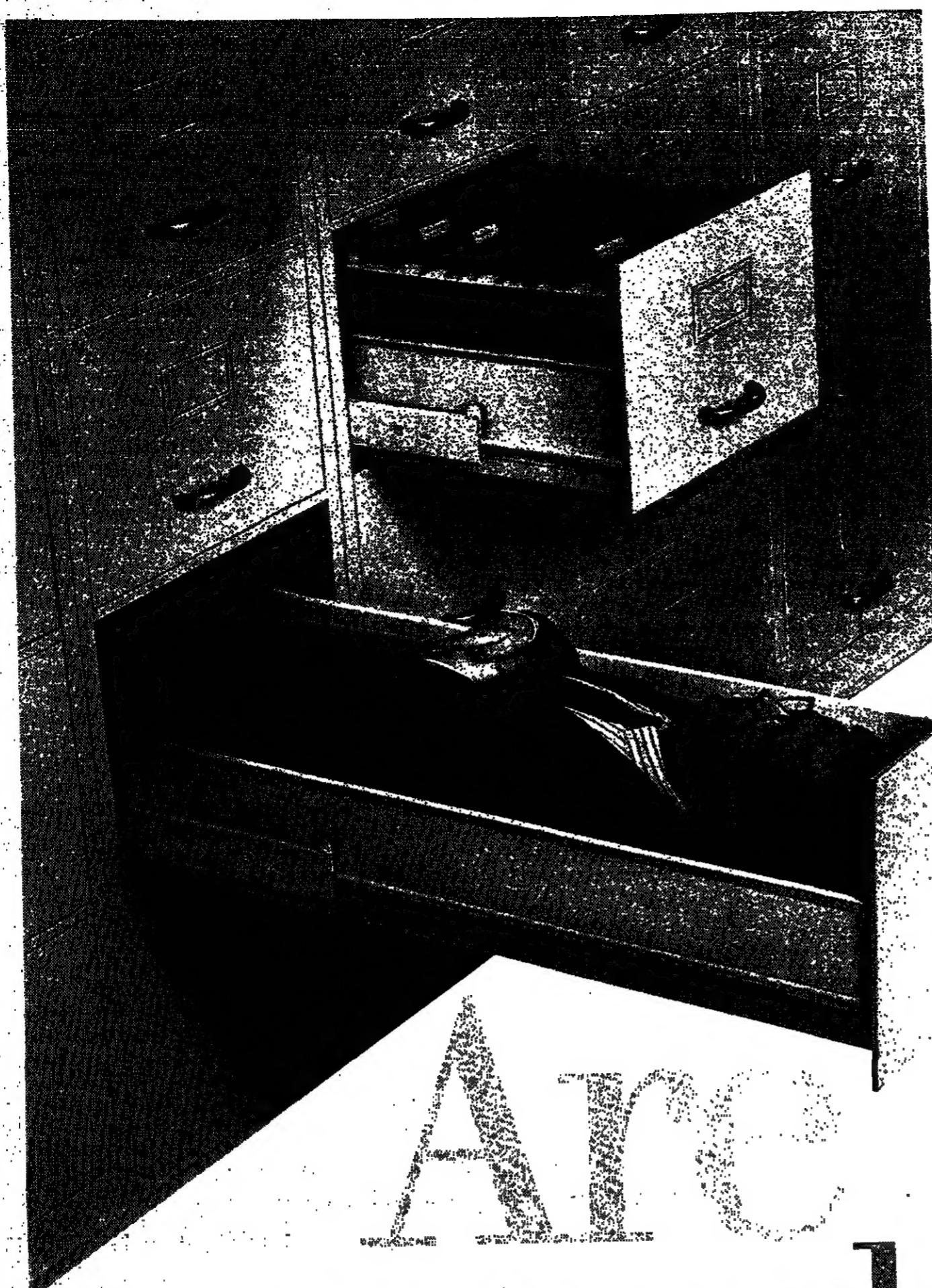
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In the 1960s an American study into stress at work established that men under 45 who worked 48 hours a week, stood twice as much chance of dying from a heart attack as those who worked a slightly more civilised 40 hours.

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In fact, over 90 million working days are lost every year as a direct result of stress!

And there's worse:

As well as being implicated in heart disease, stress is also linked with conditions like cancer, stroke and mental illness.

The irony is that the unhealthy hours so many of us work these days, mean we spend less and less time with the very people we're trying to provide a

For the life you don't yet know

better life for. Our families.

So ask yourself this. What happens to your family if, God forbid, you suffer a serious illness and die?

Then again, what happens if you have a serious illness and don't die?

Supposing your health forces you to retire early or change your career (to something quieter and lower paid) or take an extended absence from work. How do you pay your bills?

It's no good saying that "it couldn't happen to me".

The chances of you having to take at least six months off

as possible and with the absolute minimum of fuss.

There, you see. Just the idea that your finances will always be in great shape (even if you're not), is enough to start smoothing away the tension.

So imagine how much more relaxed you'll feel after a proper chat with us.

If you want to reduce the effects of stress, by all means take more exercise, take more time off, take your other half out more and take your career a little less seriously.

But whatever you take, make sure you take our phone number.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1997

Fruit
smaller
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children

Cold sores linked with greater risk of Alzheimer's

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

COLD SORES, the common but painful affliction of the face and lips, may be a cause of Alzheimer's disease, scientists believe. The discovery that some people with traces of the cold sore virus in their brains are at much greater risk of the dementing illness could point to a way of preventing it.

Studies at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology have shown that the herpes simplex virus, which lurks in the skin, migrates into the brain where it may cause damage later in life. Whether it does so appears to depend on the presence in the brain of a protein known as Apoe e-4, found in up to 30 per cent of the population. Analysing samples of brain tissue, scientists in the molecular neurobiology laboratory found that those with both the virus and the protein in their brains were almost 17 times more likely to have suffered from Alzheimer's.

Those who had just the virus or just the protein present in their brains were not at increased risk.

Professor Ruth Itzhaki, who led the study published in the *Lancet*, said: "The finding is alarming in a way, but does offer the possibility of preventing or slowing down the disease. If one could stop the infection in the bud, one could limit the damage."

Almost everyone is infected

An attempt to eradicate HIV by using a combination of drugs early in the infection may be working. After a year of treatment, no trace of the virus could be found in the blood or semen of 20 HIV-positive men. But traces in the lymph glands meant it was too soon to stop the drugs. The results were reported by Dr David Ho, of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Centre in New York, who is treating the men with AZT, 3TC and one of the new drugs known as protease inhibitors.

With the herpes simplex virus, which is transmitted by kissing, in infancy. Usually it causes a sore and then works its way into the nerves of the face, where it remains dormant. However, in 20 per cent to 40 per cent of the population it can reactivate, causing repeated skin eruptions.

Professor Itzhaki said: "Over the course of your life the virus migrates to the brain as the immune system declines. Most people have it in their brains, but for most it doesn't do any harm."

The Manchester researchers believe that once the herpes virus reaches the brain it may reactivate intermittently. The kind of protein present may determine how much

damage is done during these periods of reactivation or how well the brain recovers.

The virus had previously been suggested as a risk factor for Alzheimer's because it can cause a very rare brain infection, herpes encephalitis, but until now its presence in the brain could not be detected.

The link between Apoe e-4 and Alzheimer's was established two years ago, but scientists knew that other factors must be involved. Professor Itzhaki said: "Neither the virus nor the protein is a risk factor on its own. But when you have a combination of the two there is a very strong correlation."

If the findings are confirmed, treatment with agents limiting the activity of the cold sore virus could slow the onset of Alzheimer's. Professor Itzhaki said: "People carrying the Apoe e-4 protein could be identified by a blood test."

There is the possibility in the future of immunisation against the virus."



Gas clouds in the Lagoon Nebula, captured by the Hubble space telescope

Astronomers see birth of star, 5,000 light-years away

By NIGEL HAWKES

ASTRONOMERS have discovered stars being born 5,000 light-years away, at the centre of the Lagoon Nebula. A British telescope in Hawaii has shown a region full of intense radiation being emitted by carbon monoxide gas, as stars are formed from clouds of dust and hot gas.

The Hubble space telescope has shown gas swirling around the region to form shapes like tornadoes. These "twisters" are caused by large temperature differences between the hot surface and cold interior of the gas clouds, which produce strong shear forces that draw the gas into funnels.

Professor Glenn White, of Queen Mary and Westfield College in east London, working with Nick Tothill, also of Queen Mary and Westfield, and colleagues from Canada, Sweden and Germany, found the strong carbon monoxide emission using the James Clark Maxwell telescope in Hawaii. The team pinpointed an intense bright spot which they believe is the site where

star formation is taking place. This occurs inside a dense cloud of gas which is more than 30 times the mass of the Sun, and about one light-year across.

Carbon monoxide was first discovered in space 27 years ago and it can be detected by observatories across the world. But the observation of the bright carbon monoxide emission was a surprise for the research team.

"Stars are created from clouds of hydrogen, the most plentiful material in the universe," Professor White said. "The trouble is that it's invisible. We can only see it by watching its effect on other materials ... In this case, carbon monoxide."

"Here we are seeing the carbon monoxide molecules emitting radiation as a newly formed star radiates energy, illuminating the cloud around it. We know it is a new star because, if it had been there a long time, the radiation would have blown away the cloud and we wouldn't see it," he said.

Blood clots cure cancer in mice

CANCERS in mice have been cured in a process that aims to starve tumours of blood, writes Nigel Hawkes. Using a substance to constrict the blood in the tumour, but not in the rest of the body, an American team has managed to destroy tumours completely in more than a third of the mice tested.

The blood flowing through the tumours stopped within half an hour of the treatment, blocking them completely. Deprived of blood, the tumours began to die, just as heart muscle does in a heart attack.

Within 24 hours, the team reports in *Science*, the tumours had begun to break up, and within 72 hours they had collapsed. The treatment appears to have no side-effects: the mice lost no weight and remained fit and active.

The clotting agent is attached to an antibody which seeks out a protein on the surface of the cells lining the walls of the blood vessels.

feeding the tumour. Such proteins are believed to exist in human tumours, suggesting that the method may one day be useful in cancer therapy.

Dr Philip Thorpe, of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre, said the process was less toxic than conventional cancer drugs, yet provided "highly effective therapy".

There are several possible advantages for the treatment. Getting drugs to tumours is difficult, because they are not directly accessible to the blood vessels which carry the drugs. The treatment avoids the problem, because it attacks the cancer cells indirectly.

And because the cells on the blood vessel lining are normal cells, they may be less likely to acquire mutations that make them resistant to the treatment. The hope is that the method could be used eventually to treat lung, breast, prostate, pancreatic and brain tumours.

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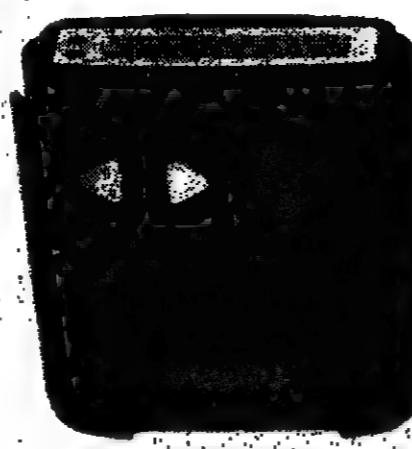
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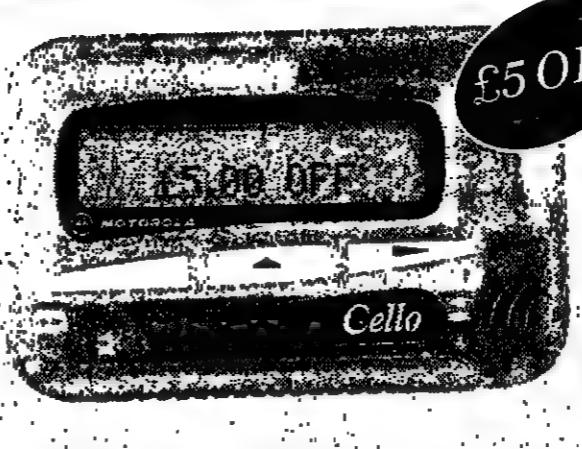
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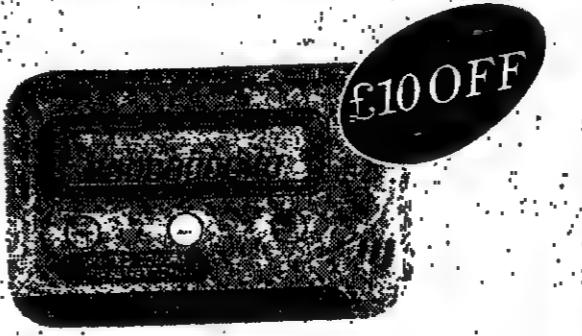
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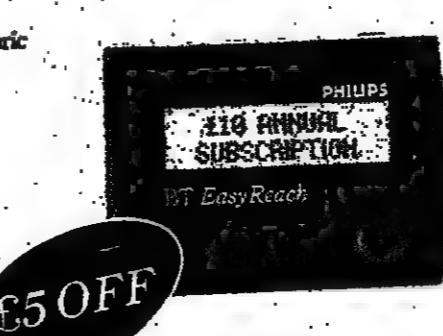
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مكالمات من الأصل

Civil Service chief steered yacht plan through Cabinet

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

WHEN Michael Heseltine chaired the Wednesday morning meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee on presentation, he was the guardian of a state secret.

As officials and party aides ran through the day's agenda, the subject of *Britannia* and the likelihood of a government statement on the decision to replace her was not even mentioned. Yet on Tuesday evening a hastily called meeting at 10 Downing Street for senior Ministers had taken the decision to commission a new royal yacht.

The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister and only a few senior ministers were invited: Mr Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary. On Monday they had each been circulated with a ten-page paper written by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, setting out his view on the best option for a new royal yacht.

The country's most senior civil servant set out the tradition of the royal yacht, and how it had served the monarchy and the nation. He believed that it was a national symbol for Britain overseas and that at home it was largely

a cherished institution. If ministers chose to replace her, he set out how a new yacht could be adapted to the needs of a modern monarchy and for the Government's commercial objectives overseas.

But he was insistent that only a publicly funded yacht was appropriate as it touched the monarch's dignity so closely. Advice to ministers is confidential but a government source said yesterday that much of Sir Robin's views informed Mr Portillo's text in his announcement to MPs.

It was clearly powerful reading and had considerable impact on Mr Clarke. Senior ministers had until then regarded him as a stumbling block to a replacement. But Mr Clarke's antipathy was more to do with timing and priorities than hostility to the project. At a time of the Budget and the public spending round he could not have agreed to such a project or expected his fellow ministers to welcome it.

The Chancellor met Mr Portillo on Monday to work out a deal on funding. Mr Portillo was delighted by Mr Clarke's conversion. There would be a feasibility study, the running costs would be half those of *Britannia*, and payment would be made over some years. The aim would be for the new royal yacht to be

welcome to the Queen's golden jubilee in 2002.

A Treasury source said yesterday: "It was all about timing really. The money was never a particularly big deal. But the Chancellor is now persuaded it is a good thing, for the monarchy and as a boost to Britain's trade and exports."

When Mr Major summoned the *ad hoc* group of ministers to make the final political decision on *Britannia*, the matter had been settled. Ministers had to rubber-stamp the deal and approve an announcement.

No wonder that Mr Portillo

was in good form on Tuesday night. He was addressing a dinner for Romsey constituency association, seat of Michael Colvin, chairman of the Defence Select Committee and a campaigner for a new royal yacht. But Mr Portillo said nothing of *Britannia*.

The Queen's private office was told about the decision by telephone on Wednesday morning. The usual Tuesday audience between the Prime Minister and the Queen did not take place this week.

Buckingham Palace was kept informed of the developments, but played no part in the discussions. The Palace view was that any decision on a new royal yacht was purely a matter for the Government.

The disclosure that the demon eyes

are back on the Tories' agenda comes only days after their latest party political broadcast. The pioneering commercial has been criticised as "negative campaigning". The 45-minute film featured only one scene, with a woman sitting in a darkened room listening to the BBC news about life under a Labour government: rising unemployment, hyperinflation, left-wing militancy, and John Prescott at the head of a rebel movement. At the end a blood-red tear dripped from the woman's eye.

John Major saw the film in his Downing Street flat only 24 hours before transmission and overruled some Tory strategists who feared that it would create the wrong impression by conceding that Mr Blair could form a government.

Tory Party chiefs were unrepentant about the tone and may film the same middle-aged woman in a hospital bed to try to illustrate the collapse of the



Tories to revive 'demon eyes' campaign

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory demon eyes campaign against Tony Blair, which was censured by the Advertising Standards Authority, is to be used again in the run-up to the general election.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, has been persuaded to resurrect the image — superimposed red glowing eyes on a photograph of Mr Blair — because it has been one of the most successful in the party's electioneering history.

The Tories may use the red eyes as a moving image in a party political broadcast on television or in a nationwide poster campaign, or newspaper advertisements. The Advertising Standards Authority, which condemned the demon eyes advertisement last year, has no jurisdiction over party political broadcasts.

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are back on the Tories' agenda comes only days after their latest party political broadcast. The pioneering commercial has been criticised as "negative campaigning". The 45-minute film featured only one scene, with a woman sitting in a darkened room listening to the BBC news about life under a Labour government: rising unemployment, hyperinflation, left-wing militancy, and John Prescott at the head of a rebel movement. At the end a blood-red tear dripped from the woman's eye.

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Tory Party chiefs were unrepentant about the tone and may film the same middle-aged woman in a hospital bed to try to illustrate the collapse of the

health service under a Labour government. Tuesday's advert was created by Jeremy Sinclair, a partner at M C Saatchi. He was one of the original creative forces at Saatchi & Saatchi with Maurice and Charles in the 1970s. He has worked on virtually every Tory campaign since 1979.

Brian Mawhinney is prepared to ride out the inevitable criticism for his campaign. But he is determined to press ahead after private research showed that it had a bigger impact than Saatchi & Saatchi's Labour isn't Working poster from 1979.

The advertising industry's Campaign newspaper voted the demon eyes the campaign of the year. A large copy of the picture has pride of place on the wall of Dr Mawhinney's office at party headquarters. The advertisement was used only once, in three Sunday newspapers, and cost £125,000 but generated free publicity estimated

to have been worth £5 million. The idea for it came from Sir Tim Bell and the recently ennobled Maurice Saatchi and Peter Gilman.

One senior Tory official said last night: "We have not decided on the implementation, but one thing is sure we will use the demon eyes again." One possibility is that the demon eyes will be used on their own, rather than superimposed on Mr Blair's face. "But it will be equally clear who we are aiming at," the official said.

The Advertising Standards Authority ruled last August that the campaign had broken its code of practice by portraying the Labour leader as "sinister and dishonest". The authority said that it should not be repeated. But yesterday a spokesman said: "It was the decision to superimpose the eyes on Tony Blair which made it in breach of the code. They are not prevented from using a similar technique in a different way."

Clarke's EMU option is all but dead and buried

K

enneth Clarke was last night holding on just by his finger tips to his wait-and-see policy on a single currency. Yesterday's 90-minute Cabinet discussion may not have formally closed off the option, but it has done so in practice. As Malcolm Rifkind said afterwards: "It is unlikely that circumstances would lead us to wishing to join a single currency in January 1999". That was underlined by the later ministerial comments that it was "very unlikely" that the legislation required for entry would be introduced in the first session of the next Parliament. This shift recognises the political realities in the Cabinet and the Tory parliamentary party which Mr Clarke made the best of yesterday.

There has never, of course, been any serious possibility that a re-elected Major Government would enter a single currency in the first wave or at any stage in the next Parliament. The sceptics have wanted a firm declaration that this will not happen and many will make such a commitment in their constituency election addresses. That has been resisted on two grounds.

The first, emphasised by John Major and Mr Rifkind, is that such a decision now would undermine any remaining British influence on the shape of EMU. In theory, that still stands. The second, the implicit position of the Clarks

enough. The electoral impact is less certain: "very unlikely" is hardly as resounding an appeal on the hustings as "never" and Cabinet divisions remain, doubtless to be exploited again during the campaign.

Attention will now turn to Labour. Tony Blair has wanted both to promise that a Labour government would establish a better relationship with the EU and to avoid being portrayed as a soft touch for Brussels. Many senior Labour politicians would like Mr Blair to match the Cabinet shift. Robin Cook makes no secret of his belief that Britain should not enter in the first wave, even though we should join later if monetary union proves to be successful.

Gordon Brown, however, wants to keep open the first wave option and that was his condition for agreeing last autumn to the promise of a referendum. His allies were insistent last night that there would be no change in Labour policy. Mr Brown is in a stronger position than Mr Clarke. But if Labour wins the election, it is still unlikely that Britain would join in a first wave, not least because a Blair government would have so much else to do. The door may be virtually closed, but it has not yet been locked and bolted.

PETER RIDDELL



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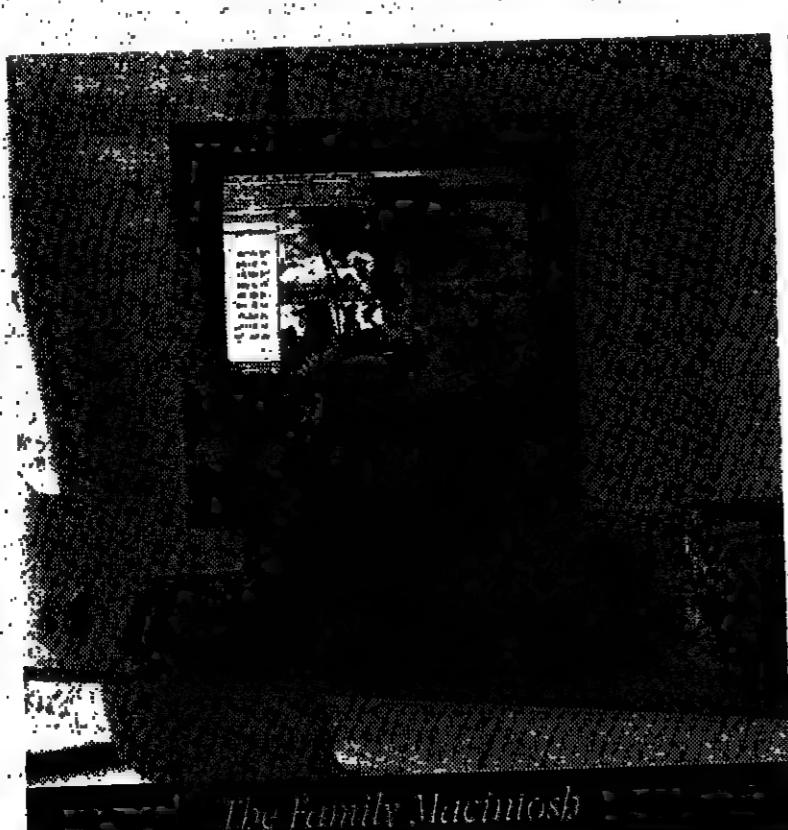
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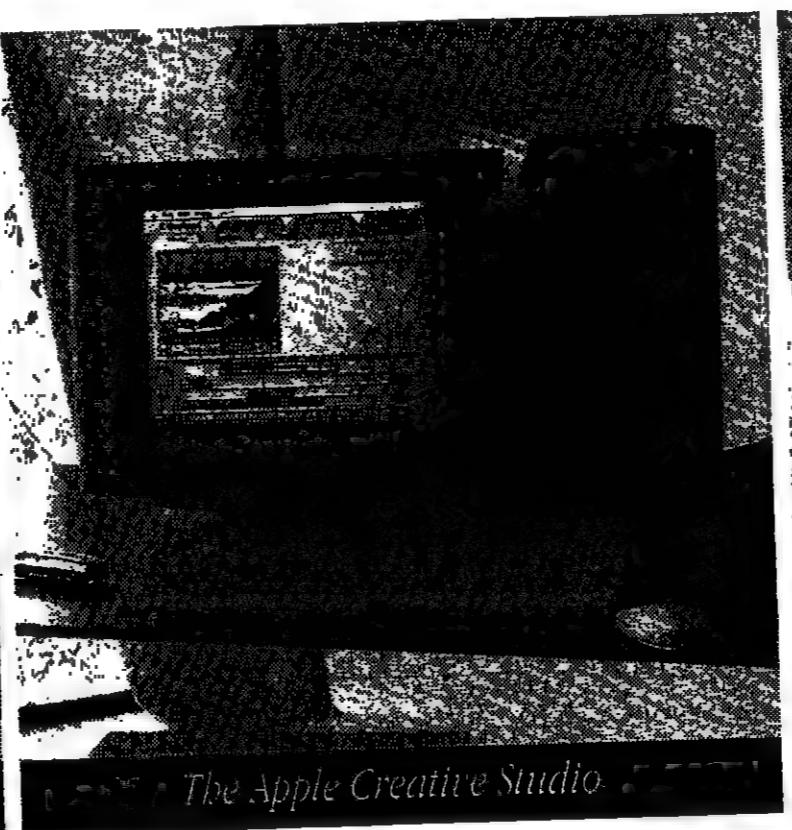
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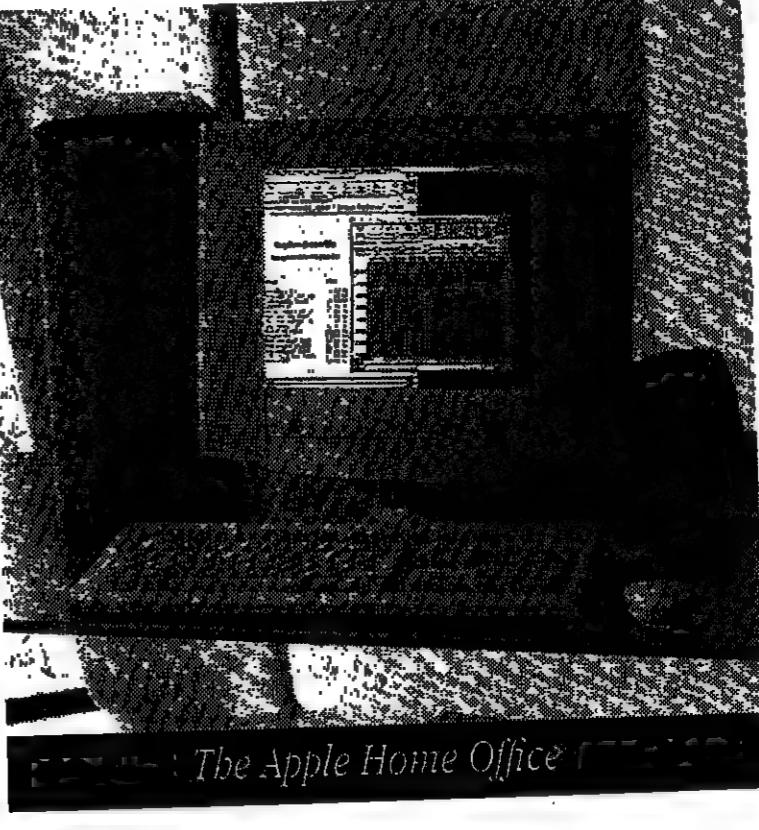
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Pensioner power and memory of Weimar hyper-inflation spell trouble for Chancellor

Ageing Germans seek referendum in anti-euro fight

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY'S increasingly militant 17 million old age pensioners are emerging as the country's most powerful opponents to the introduction of the euro and scrapping of the mark.

The chairman of the so-called Grey Panthers, Trude Unruh, said yesterday: "Old people who have lost their money several times because of currency reforms are overwhelmingly against the euro."

Similar opinions are being expressed by other lobbyists for the over-60s and it is becoming clear that the euro debate in Germany runs not on party lines — the mainstream parties are broadly in favour of EMU, though each contains a number of sceptics — but across the generations.

Banks responding to hundreds of daily nervous inquiries from pensioners, have set up special advisory units for the over-60s. The chief concerns are about the future of savings, the vulnerability of maturing life insurance policies and the possibility of inflation eating their pensions.

Frau Unruh's Grey Panthers insist that old people should support the euro only if the Government presses for uniform European taxes. Roswitha Verhuelsdürre, head of the Federal Pensioners Association, says that at every public meeting on the euro she is flooded by anxious questions by pensioners. "People are terrified because they simply cannot imagine what will

happen to their money." Joachim Faustmann, at the Association of War Victims, has a similar experience: "With all the current savings and cuts in the welfare state, it is hardly surprising that the euro is being rejected."

The fear of inflation sits deep in the older generation. The very oldest — there are 350,000 Germans over 90 — can remember losing their savings in the hyper-inflation of 1923 (when wheelbarrows were needed to carry the money for a loaf of bread); in the economic depression of 1929-1933; and the currency reform of 1948.

The outstanding lawyer Rudolf Wassermann — now 71 and retired from the High Court bench — is demanding a referendum. "It is unbelievable that such a revolutionary act could be carried through without consulting the people ... the politicians are afraid of the people."

A referendum is regarded as constitutionally difficult and has been ruled out by the Chancellor. Professor Wassermann, however, believes that Article 20 of the Constitution opens the possibility of a popular ballot on the issue.

A recent opinion survey by the Forsa Institute showed that 73 per cent of Germans favour such a move. Three-quarters do not believe political pledges that the euro will be as strong as the mark.

Herr Kohl will try to reassure the veteran sceptics in a speech next week.

Leading article and Letters, page 23



Helmut Kohl at a meeting in Bonn yesterday to discuss sweeping tax reforms. The changes could backfire amid growing opposition to a single currency

By MICHAEL BINION
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE nation state has served Britain well as a protector of its freedom. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday. In Britain, there was still pride in its achievements, even if the notion made

people uncomfortable in other parts of Europe.

In a speech to the French Chamber of Commerce in London, Mr Rifkind said Britain's belief in the role of the nation state should not come as any surprise. "It is not a hangover from a more national era, but a tradition rooted

in the experience and culture of the British people. It will not go away."

He said there could not be a return to the Europe of the 1930s, where the balance of power determined alliances and caused wars. But the alternative was not a supranational federal Europe.

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TI 51

Taxation reform could prove pitfall for Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German Government unveiled an overhaul of the country's confusing tax system yesterday in what it said would be "the reform of the century". Critics, however, said the reform was too cautious, favoured the rich and was unlikely to survive intact after going through the lengthy procedure of parliamentary approval.

The plan is to cut the top income tax rate from 53 per cent to 39 per cent, but at the same time wipe out the many tax breaks and loopholes exploited by higher-income earners. Taxes on companies and company profits are also to come down. At the bottom end of the income scale, the lowest rate is to fall to 20 per cent from its present 25.9 per cent.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, who is being criticised by politicians even in the governing Christian Democratic Union for setting too modest targets, said the reform was a successful step towards the modernisation of Germany.

Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, said it would increase the attractiveness of Germany as a place for investment, spur growth and help to ease the unemployment, which stands at 4.1 million.

But the tax changes part of Helmut Kohl's attempt to project his Government as reformist, contains many hidden pitfalls for Bonn and may backfire on the Chancellor. All tax reforms create winners and losers, but in the case of

Serbian police fight to keep control of media for Milosevic

BY TOM WALKER IN KRAJUEVAC AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SERB police beat protesters in this Serbian town yesterday in a confrontation over control of the local media, and municipal leaders gave a warning that violence could spiral.

Hundreds of police had barricaded themselves inside the radio and television station in the town, 60 miles south of Belgrade, to prevent a takeover by new city officials. Opponents of President Milosevic surrounded them, threatening to use force to enter, and formed a traffic blockade on the main road to Belgrade. About 60 riot policemen charged with batons, badly beating two protesters.

So unpopular is President Milosevic here that he did not contest the election won recently by the opposition.

In 1989 the Zastava industrial complex was producing

risk of violence. These factors have fuelled the Zastava complex is out of bounds to visitors, being in the hands of citizens loyal to Mr Milosevic. The mayor, an engineer by training, was dismissed from the plant in 1991 along with others who are now in power in a bankrupt city hall. It is a waste of time going there anyway," Mr Stevanovic says. "There's nothing happening and they have absolutely no answers."

About 15,000 demonstrators have been turning out each night to face the police. They copy the tactics so successful in Belgrade, throwing up a piercing wall of sound with whistles, hooters and pans. The local media have tried to stifle news of the protest but a court has ruled in favour of the municipality.

"It is quite ridiculous — the station is just 100 yards away, and no mention is ever made of the protests," says Vojislav Stevanovic, a novelist and playwright returned from exile in Paris who hopes to begin independent broadcasts. "A free media is of the utmost importance. Every third family is starving and every second family has no means to live, and people should know that."

Kragujevac has a history of revolt, having been the breeding ground of an insurrection against the Turks in 1804. After a second uprising it became the capital of Serbia between 1815 and 1841, and home to the nation's first theatre and newspaper.

The few workers who now manage to find shift work earn about £40 a month. The majority, who are classified as being on leave, take home about £11.

Production at the car plant is down to about 5,000 vehicles a year. Work is often halved for want of engines — which come from the crippled Rakovica plant in Belgrade. The Government owes the firm £40 million. There is no ready solution to Kragujevac's problems.

Aleksandar Radosavljevic, a local opposition leader, said yesterday that negotiations on the handing over of the stations had failed and protests would continue. "Obviously, they don't want any agreement and are determined to keep control of the media," Mr Radosavljevic said.

"Tension is far higher than in Belgrade," says Veroljub Stevanovic, the new Mayor. "The unemployed population is high, and if our demonstrations get bigger there is a large

Thousands protest over EMU

Athens: Thousands of workers took the day off and marched in protest over the Greek Government's belt-tightening policy and plans to join the European single currency within five years (John Carr

Meanwhile, merchant seamen ended a ten-day strike. A majority of the Panhellenic Maritime Federation, the country's biggest marine union, took the decision after the Government moderated a plan to make seamen pay tax.

Panda poachers: Three people who sold two panda skins were jailed for 15 years by a southern China court. The maximum penalty for killing or selling the fur of the threatened species is death. (Reuters)

The last post: Hong Kong: Stamps bearing the Queen's image go on sale in Hong Kong tomorrow for the last time. Collectors are in a frenzy over the "last day covers" and the replacement issue, on sale from Sunday.

Algerian plea: Algeria's main secular opposition leader, Hocine Ait Ahmed, urged President Clinton to appoint a mediator to help to end violence which has killed 160 people in two weeks of bombings. (Reuters)

Vote for change: Rome: Parliament has agreed moves to change Italy's constitution to try to obtain a stable government and more efficient legislature. Most parties' back a federal structure and fewer MPs. (Reuters)

Off the airwaves: Brussels: A Belgian teenage aircraft fanatic who used a pirate radio to issue instructions to landing pilots has been arrested. Pilots had been advised to double-check instructions. (AP)

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Vichy chief loses battle to escape Holocaust trial

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Supreme Court yesterday ordered Maurice Papon, accused Nazi collaborator, to be tried for crimes against humanity, removing the last legal hurdle to a trial that had been blocked and delayed for 15 years.

M Papon, 86, will face trial by jury in Bordeaux, the city where, as regional secretary-general under the collaborationist Vichy regime, he allegedly ordered 1,690 Jews to be sent to their deaths in Nazi concentration camps.

By rejecting M Papon's last appeal against a trial, France's highest court has set the scene for what historians say is a final opportunity for France to examine its wartime past in a court of law.

M Papon is the only senior Vichy official left alive, and will be the only second Frenchman to stand trial for crimes against humanity. He immediately attacked the Supreme Court decision as "scandalous" and said in a statement that it would provide an opportunity for Communists, "the leftist lobby" and foreigners to smear France by linking the Vichy regime to the Nazi Holocaust.

"As in all political trials, the outcome has already been settled with the authorities," M Papon said, comparing himself to Captain Alfred

Dreyfus, the Jewish army officer falsely convicted of treason in 1894.

In a 50,000-page dossier assembled by prosecutors, M Papon is accused of being an accomplice to kidnapping and murder, arbitrary arrest, inhuman acts and the arrest of minors. About 223 children were among the Jews sent to Nazi death camps, allegedly on M Papon's orders.

The late François Mitterrand, a former Vichy official, admitted attempting



Papon: says he did not know about Holocaust

to delay trials for crimes against humanity to preserve what he called "civil peace".

Paul Touvier, a low-ranking militia officer, was sentenced to life imprisonment for crimes against humanity in 1994. He died in prison last year.

M Papon's lawyers insist that the ageing bureaucrat, who went on to become Finance Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing, was not an anti-Semitic, but instead an active member of the Resistance who tried to alleviate the suffering of deportees.

Prosecutors, who will cite a raft of deportation documents bearing M Papon's signature, say that he cannot have been unaware of what would happen to the Jews deported from Bordeaux to Auschwitz.

"The evidence against Maurice Papon is overwhelming," Jean-Pierre Dintilhac, the state prosecutor, told a packed courtroom during arguments last Thursday. "Undoubtedly, there should be others along with him on the stand. The fact that he is alone does not exonerate him."

M Papon has denied the charges, saying he sacrificed a few Jews to save others. He has said he knew nothing about the Holocaust, never embraced Nazi ideology and was merely doing his job.



Pierre Gagnaire at his restaurant in St Etienne in the Loire region that was forced close through bankruptcy. It had been awarded three stars in the Michelin guide

Lebed plays his Trump card in Big Apple

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

RUSSIA'S former national security chief, Aleksandr Lebed, has followed the example of his opponent, Boris Yeltsin, by visiting New York to flit with capitalists and build his reputation abroad.

General Lebed, 46, the ambitious ex-soldier who was sacked by President Yeltsin last year, arrived in Manhattan this week after attending the American presidential inauguration in Washington. His sojourn, conducted as "a private citizen", may be compared to the contact-building trip Mr Yeltsin made to the United States in 1991, before he gained power.

General Lebed has met politicians

and businessmen and schooled himself in the media-savvy, slick-image ways of the New World. His presence at President Clinton's inauguration was arranged by two Republican senators, William Roth of Delaware and Gordon Smith of Oregon.

He visited senior executives at Du Pont, the pharmaceuticals company, and on Wednesday met that most vivid of capitalist property developers, Donald Trump. Mr Trump, who rewarded his visitor with a glass apple souvenir, told a large posse of reporters that he had found General Lebed "terrific". It is not a word one often hears applied to the gruff Russian, but General Lebed has made an effort to appeal to the American people.

He produced a string of one-liners

which seemed designed to titillate Western tastes. "If the rape is unavoidable, relax and try to enjoy it," he said with an archly raised eyebrow when asked about the expansion of Nazi eastwards into former Iron Curtain countries. "Do you have any heroes?" someone asked. "No heroes," said General Lebed. "Even the sun has spots."

In a message for potential investors who have been wary about Russia, General Lebed said: "He who doesn't take risks, does not drink champagne." To illustrate his belief that it was time for Russia to find an improved system of government, he said: "There has got to be a time when you stop stepping on the same rake". Mr Trump, whose achievements in-

clude erecting some of Manhattan's boldest skyscrapers and who wants to build in Moscow, was warned by his new friend that a high-rise by the Russian capital's citadel might not gain planning permission. "We can't have anyone spitting from the roof on to the Kremlin," he said, with a twerk of a smile.

When the rising Boris Yeltsin swam through Manhattan in the early Nineties there were rumours of heavy drinking sessions — one disobliging report said that he treated America like "one long bar".

General Lebed has been more

After this trip, he is certainly viewed as a more civilised figure by the stewards of American public opinion.

Godfathers trip the light fantastic in Mafia 'gangsta rap' musical

Rome: A woman film director in Sicily has given a new meaning to the term "gangsta rap" by devising a rap musical based on the internecine feuds of the Italian Mafia (Richard Owen writes).

Gang warfare and the underworld have formed the backdrop to several musicals from *Guys and Dolls* to *Bugsy Malone*. But in Italy the Mafia is no laughing matter.

The authorities are engaged in a battle with Mafia bosses in an attempt to destroy the leadership and the network of fear and family loyalties on

Grants dished out to France's 'artistic' chefs

By BEN MACINTYRE

THE French art of cookery has finally taken its place alongside painting, music and literature as a branch of national culture worthy of government backing — and taxpayers' money.

This week the Culture Ministry announced it would begin awarding annual financial grants to France's most talented young chefs, a move the country's cooks hailed as belated recognition of their status as artists rather than artisans.

Philippe Doutte-Blazy, the Minister of Culture, said that henceforth three junior chefs setting up their own restaurants will receive grants of Fr100,000 (£12,500) each, while established masters of gastronomy will also be granted subsidies to tide them over sticky economic times.

Several top chefs are in financial trouble, facing declining revenues and diminished appetites, as well as competition from smaller bistros and fast-food outlets.

"This is a major breakthrough," Christian Coutin of the Paris restaurant La Table d'Avens said. "At long last this is proof that we have passed from the status of workmen to that of creative artists."

M Doutte-Blazy announced the grants at the restaurant newly opened by Pierre Gagnaire, a masterchef forced recently to declare

rival gangsters at his butcher's shop in the old market at Vucciria, a district of Palermo. Signora Torre overheard the story in a trattoria.

It is based on an incident at the height of the war at the end of the 1980s between the Corleone clan, then led by Salvatore "Toto" Riina, and other families.

In one scene gangsters eliminate one of their rivals in a bloody shoot-out to the strains of a jazz medley. In another, Mafia wives dance a samba, singing: "We are the slaves and they are the bosses."

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1997

British staff sent home after sale of visas in Nigeria

By MICHAEL BINNION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND LIN JENKINS

DETECTIVES are investigating widespread corruption concerning the sale of British visas to Nigerians. Scotland Yard confirmed last night.

British staff at the British High Commission in Lagos dealing with visas have been sent home after a team from the Metropolitan Police Organised Crime Group began inquiries in Nigeria last month.

The team uncovered systematic fraud involving large sums of money, and as a result of the preliminary findings the Foreign Office recalled up to four of the 29 staff deployed in the country. All worked in the visa section.

Scotland Yard said: "Officers of the Organised Crime Group have been asked to investigate alleged corruption involving the issuing of British visas in Nigeria." The team of four, under a superintendent, will be interviewing a number of people, after its visit to the country on December 10.

The Foreign Office said: "We can confirm that some members of staff have returned from Lagos to help the

Metropolitan Police with their inquiries. We are not able to say more about the names or numbers of staff concerned while the investigation continues." It refused to discuss details. The investigation, however, is unprecedented in its scope and in the intense embarrassment it causes the Government.

Britain played a leading role in persuading the rest of the Commonwealth to refuse visas to military personnel and other senior government officials as one of the sanctions put in place in 1995 because of the Nigerian military Government's refusal to accelerate a return to democracy.

Suggestions that consular officials corruptly issued visas for Nigerians seeking to visit Britain not only undermine this policy, but will be used by Commonwealth countries opposed to any strengthening of the sanctions to level charges of hypocrisy against Britain.

Nigeria is a country that has become notorious for corruption, bribery and brazen quasi-official attempts at extortion. Almost no business



Jemima Khan, wife of Imran Khan, is embraced in Islamabad yesterday by a woman activist of her husband's party after she had addressed a women's rally in support of his campaign for the coming national elections

Chinese reject protest

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA yesterday rejected a British protest over proposed changes Peking intends to make to Hong Kong laws on its new-found civil liberties, and complained that Britain was forcing its will on others.

"We cannot accept the British protest," Shen Guofang, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said referring to the "serious concern" Jeremy Hanley, a Foreign Office minister, had expressed on Wednesday after summoning Jiang Enzhu, the Chinese Ambassador.

Mr Shen called the British action "totally unreasonable", adding that the so-called protest was unwise. He insisted that Hong Kong would be "China's internal affair" after Peking resumes control on June 30.

Mr Hanley's protest was over China's plans to dilute the Bill of Rights and other related laws guaranteeing civil liberties in Hong Kong after the change of sovereignty.

Warning to Arafat

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has drawn up a contingency plan should Yasir Arafat declare a Palestinian state which Israeli officials say involves the reoccupation of much of the West Bank (Christopher Walker writes).

The existence of the plan was revealed by Mr Netanyahu in an Israeli television interview after President Arafat announced in Cairo on Wednesday that a declaration of the state would probably be made in the middle of next year. "The Palestinian state is not an Israeli issue; it is an Arab international issue," Mr Arafat said.

Mr Netanyahu said the Palestinians could discuss statehood in negotiations, "but they certainly cannot do it unilaterally, because that is a violation of the agreement".

Asked what he would do if such a step were taken, Mr Netanyahu said: "A great deal. I have a contingency plan ready."

Israel army radio, quoting sources in the Prime Minister's office, said the plan called for the army to reoccupy most of the rural areas of the West Bank.

FBI chief accuses Saudis over bomb

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SAUDI ARABIA was accused yesterday of withholding evidence about the terrorist bombing of a barracks in which 19 American servicemen were killed last June.

The allegation was made by Louis Freeh, director of the FBI, who has made three visits to Riyadh since the bombing to try to win more information from the Saudis. They have remained unresponsive despite a pledge by King Fahd of full collaboration with American investigators, including their right to question suspects and witnesses.

Mr Freeh's admission of failure not only disclosed his own frustration but also amounted to rare public criticism by a Washington official of Saudi Arabia, supposedly a close American ally. It was a reversal of the Clinton Administration's previous insistence that the Saudis were willing to co-operate with the inquiries.

Riyadh's refusal to be more forthcoming has important implications for American policy in the Middle East. The Saudis have been trying to pin blame for the bombings on Iran, saying that the terrorists were trained and supplied

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Clinton under fire over aide's help for Asian funder

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ONLY three days into his second term, President Clinton's honeymoon ended abruptly yesterday in a series of embarrassing revelations indicating American policy favours were up for sale.

One of his longstanding aides had tried to push through an unusual \$6.5 million (£3.9 million) financing deal requested by one of the Democratic Party's largest Asian donors.

Four months after Mr Clinton signed a law last year barring financial transactions between American companies and countries accused of supporting terrorism, the Administration discreetly exempted Sudan where an American corporation was pursuing a \$930 million oil deal which later failed.

The exemption to the 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act allowed Occidental Petroleum Corporation to negotiate with Khartoum despite Sudan's position

on a State Department list as sponsor of terrorism. Questions were raised as to whether Occidental, which donated \$600,000 to both political parties in the past two years, may have influenced the decision.

It is the financing deal, however, coming within days of Mr Clinton's promise to cleanse his party of all funds donated by foreigners living in the United States, that will touch a nerve at the White House. This may prove to be the smoking gun that Republicans have been seeking in their attempts to prove that American policy was auctioned to the highest bidder during last year's campaign.

It involved Maria Haley, one of the President's personal appointees at the Export-Import Bank. The deal she was pressing called for the American Government to help a company controlled by one of Thailand's wealthiest families to finance a blockbuster video

store franchise in Bangkok.

Although the proposal was opposed by many in Washington, on the ground that it fell outside the bank's mandate of encouraging exports to support American employment, Ms Haley urged her staff to support the project.

The deal collapsed over questions about the operations of the franchise. The financial package was in large part structured by Pauline Kanchanalak, a Thai citizen living in Virginia, whose family's \$200,000 donations to the Democratic Party last year are under investigation.

The donations by Mrs Kanchanalak and her family were solicited by John Huang, the Democratic fundraiser at the heart of a federal inquiry into questionable contributions from Asian sources. He arranged for her to attend a coffee morning at the White House when Mrs Kanchanalak donated \$85,000.



AL GORE, the American Vice-President, kisses Madeleine Albright after she was sworn in yesterday as the first woman US Secretary of State. President Clinton, family members and senior administration officials clustered around Ms

Albright, 59, after she had taken the oath of office in the Oval Office — a day after the Senate confirmed her nomination. The daughter of a Czech diplomat and a former ambassador to the United Nations, Ms Albright has said that she will make enlarging Nato and improving ties with China her priorities during her tenure.

She said yesterday that her first task will be "to go over to the State Department and tell them all that we have a very important job to do". Ms Albright succeeds Warren Christopher, who was Secretary of State during Mr Clinton's first term.

Americans angry after Cuba signs pact with Canada

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CANADA angered and baffled Washington yesterday by reaching a remarkable 14-point agreement with Cuba that includes co-operation on human rights and striking back at the controversial American law designed to penalise Cuba's foreign investors.

The agreement, which runs counter to US efforts to isolate Cuba's Communist Government, was reached after a three-hour dinner between President Castro and Lloyd Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister, followed by an uncheduled lunch of similar length for the pair the following day.

American reaction ranged from a conviction that the Canadians were naive, to assertions that they were determined to embarrass the United States. Or maybe they were trying to flaunt their independence from European allies who also oppose the Helms-Burton law, which seeks to impose sanctions on those trading with Cuba.

A spokesman for Jesse Helms, the Republican senator who co-authored the Bill, accused Mr Axworthy of going to Cuba with only one purpose in mind — "to poke a finger in the eye of the United States". The spokesman, Marc Thiessen, said the agreement would not improve the human rights of a single Cuban.

Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, said the United States remained very sceptical that the Cuban Government was prepared to take meaningful steps that would lead to democratic rule in Cuba or reflect a change of attitude on human rights. Mr Burns said: "It doesn't make sense to reward a dictator in our hemisphere who is completely behind the times."

As if to underline Cuba's disregard for human rights, three dissidents were arrested during Mr Axworthy's 24-hour visit for trying to produce economic and independent news reports outside the state-controlled media. Two were later released.

Under the agreement, Canada and Cuba made an opaque pledge to broaden and deepen co-operation on hu-

Grounded pilots sue for right to fly past 60

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

AIRLINE pilots in America are going to law in an attempt to stop ageism in the cockpit. They want to overturn a federal rule that stipulates retirement for pilots at 60.

The Professional Pilots Federation, a trade association with 2,500 members, has brought an action in a Washington DC court against America's Federal Aviation Administration. FAA rules forbid any commercial aircraft with ten or more seats from being piloted by anyone older than 60.

The pilots say the law, in force since 1959, is discriminatory and prevents some of the most experienced — and therefore, they say, the safest — pilots from working.

Europe recently changed its regulations. Older pilots may now work as co-pilots, provided cockpit colleagues are younger than 60.

Not all American airline pilots support the legal action. The Air-Line Pilots Association backs the status quo for reasons of "public safety".

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 24 1997

US lawsuit reveals duty-free tycoon as Sinn Fein donor

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

A PROMINENT Irish-American businessman who is Sinn Fein's single largest contributor in the United States has been forced by a bitter court battle to open carefully guarded records of his \$3.5 billion (£2.1 billion) global financial empire, making clear that he has made donations to many Irish causes.

According to *The New York Times*, Charles Feeney, a New Jersey businessman who made his fortune with an international network of duty-free shops and retailers, has given away \$600 million in charitable donations in the past 15 years.

Contributions to Irish educational and community groups account for more than half of the international gifts by Mr Feeney's two foundations, the Atlantic Foundation and the Atlantic Trust, and for more than a quarter of their total donations.

In addition, Mr Feeney has emerged as the single largest American donor to Friends of Sinn Fein, a group set up three years ago to air Sinn Fein's views in America and to raise funds. In the six months to last October, Mr Feeney gave \$120,000 to the lobby group, three-quarters of his income in that period. The money was

used to support its Washington office. According to *The New York Times*, Mr Feeney has given a total of \$280,000 to the group.

In a laudatory piece headlined "He gave away \$600 million, and no one knew", the newspaper, which usually treats Sinn Fein with sympathy, lauded Mr Feeney yesterday for his practice of secret philanthropy. It says that he has transferred all but about \$5 million of his net assets, estimated at \$3.5 billion, to his two charitable foundations.

In a rare interview, Mr Feeney, who is well known for flying economy class, is reported as saying: "I simply decided I had enough money. It does not drive my life. I am a what-you-see-is-what-you-get kind of guy."

Mr Feeney is reported as saying that his donations to Sinn Fein "had been carefully monitored to ensure that they supported only non-violent activities", and that he had continued supporting the Washington office despite the ceasefire's collapse last February because I am hopeful that it will be renewed".

The secretive Mr Feeney has guarded the privacy of his financial affairs for years. His two foundations, and the par-

ent company of Duty Free Shoppers, the international duty-free empire he founded with Robert Miller, a fellow American, are registered in Bermuda and are exempt from filing detailed financial returns.

But, according to *The New York Times*, Mr Feeney has been obliged to lift a corner of the veil because of a fiercely contested lawsuit with Mr Miller, his business partner for 35 years.

Mr Miller has been fighting to stop Mr Feeney and a former shareholder from selling a controlling stake in Duty Free Shoppers to the luxury goods company LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, which is a supplier and direct competitor of Duty Free Shoppers.

Mr Feeney achieved prominence during the Irish peace process when he took part in a 1994 delegation of Irish-American businessmen to meet Irish political and business leaders.

According to yesterday's disclosures, his foundations have given more than \$10 million to each of Trinity College and Dublin City University, as well as many smaller gifts to educational and com-

munity projects.



Daniel Petrocelli, left, leading attorney for the plaintiff, Fred Goldman, with his client and Patti Goldman during the lunch break outside the Santa Monica court yesterday, while O.J. Simpson, right, arrives at court for the closing stages of the civil case against him

O.J. Simpson lawyer accuses police of prejudice

FROM REUTERS IN SANTA MONICA

O.J. SIMPSON's leading attorney accused the Los Angeles Police Department and the FBI of being prejudiced against his client in his closing argument at the former football star's civil trial yesterday.

Robert Baker said the two law-enforcement agencies had spent "thousands and thousands of their dollars... to assist plaintiffs in a civil case" and asked: "Is that fair?" He said the proof of his claim was that he was

unable to get Los Angeles officers and detectives to testify without issuing subpoenas, while police and agents of the FBI freely volunteered their services to the plaintiffs.

"The FBI and the LAPD don't want a level playing field," Mr Baker said.

His allegations added a new twist to the main defence theme that Los Angeles police botched the investigation and planted evidence to frame Mr Simpson for the June 1994 murders of Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, and Ronald Goldman, her friend. Mr Simpson was acquitted of

the murders after a criminal trial that ended in October 1995. His civil trial for causing wrongful death is in its closing stages and the jury is expected to begin its deliberations at any moment.

Daniel Petrocelli, who represents Goldman's father, Fred Goldman, earlier pleaded with the jury to force Mr Simpson to pay compensation to Mr Simpson for the loss of his son. But he stopped short of naming a figure, saying: "You can't put a value on the loss of a son, you can't put a price tag on it."

"True justice [for Fred Goldman] would be to see Ron Goldman walk through those doors right now, to see Nicole Brown Simpson playing with her children. That will never happen, they are gone forever," Mr Petrocelli said.

Then, turning and pointing dramatically at Mr Simpson, he said: "There is nothing you [the jury] have in your power to do is to bring about some small measure of justice by requiring the man responsible to pay for Fred Goldman's loss."

UN chief secures pledge on debt by White House

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, partially succeeded in his mission to Washington yesterday after President Clinton promised he would work with Republicans in Congress to repay the more than \$1 billion (£600 million) American debt to the world organisation.

After meeting Mr Annan at the White House, Mr Clinton said his federal budget would include a provision to ensure prompt repayment of the debt, an issue which has overshadowed relations between Washington and the UN.

"As the UN moves towards reform, it must also know that the United States is prepared to pay its way," said the President. "In the weeks ahead I will be working with Congress to reach an agreement in which America can pay our arrears to the UN."

An issue is whether Congress, increasingly dissatisfied with overspending at the UN, will accept Mr Annan's assurances to the White House and those on Capitol Hill that he

plans to reform the organisation in New York. He was due last night to meet Jesse Helms, the chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee and the most outspoken critic of UN policy.

Mr Clinton, allowing himself some political leverage, said he would not be able to persuade Republicans in Congress to pay the \$1.3 billion debt unless they were convinced that reform would indeed take place.

The secretary-general arrived in the capital the previous evening with the simple message that he had come as a "creditor, not a beggar", and admitted that over 50 years the UN had "picked up extra baggage".

Mr Annan, a Ghanaian diplomat who succeeded Boutros-Ghali at the helm of the UN, acknowledged that relations with Congress had been acrimonious in the past, but he hoped to persuade opponents that money was needed to reshape the organisation in preparation for the 21st century.

In speaking to administration officials, he was essentially preaching to the converted — they agree the United States should pay its debts. The real struggle is with members of Congress, who have blocked past payments of dues.

Republican leaders have expressed willingness to pay off the debt, but have attached conditions that appear beyond the power of any UN chief to deliver.

While legally the United States owes the United Nations \$1.3 billion, the calculation in Washington is \$300 million less.



Annan has promised to bring in reforms

Two accused of soap star's death go on trial

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZILIANS watched a real-life soap opera unfold with the opening of the murder trial of a couple accused of using scissors to stab to death a young actress.

The long-awaited trial began on Wednesday in a packed Rio de Janeiro courtroom and will go on live on Globo TV. It will retrace what happened on the night of December 28, four years ago, when Daniella Perez's body was found dumped in a field in a plush Rio suburb.

The stunning actress, 22, had starred in the soap opera *Body and Soul*, watched by 100 million viewers nightly, and was the daughter of one of Brazil's better known screenwriters. She had been stabbed 18 times with a pair of scissors after suffering blows to the head, forensic science experts said.

Accused of her murder are her screen lover in the soap, Guilherme Padua, 27, and his now-ex estranged wife Paula

Thomaz, 25. They are said to have lured Daniella into their car at a service station, then driven her to a desolate spot to carry out the attack.

They have been in prison awaiting trial for the past four years. The actor, who first admitted the murder, now denies delivering the blows, saying his wife went for his co-star in a "jealous rage".

Senhora Thomaz gave birth to a son in prison and the couple separated during pre-trial proceedings at which each accused the other of the killing. She has denied involvement, saying she was shopping at the time.

The prosecution will argue that the killing was to silence rumours of an off-screen affair between the actors.

The attack happened on the night after Daniella, who played a brazen middle-class beauty, and Senhor Padua filmed an episode ending their screen romance.

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SPECIAL

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Photographs by
CHRIS MOORE
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PARIS

Couturiers are in a quandary. Iain R. Webb reveals how they resolve it in the spring collections

If the extreme messages coming from the spring-summer 1997 ready-to-wear collections weren't confusing enough this season — slip on a pretty chiffon dress and look delicate; or alternatively wear skin-tight trousers, a sexy boob tube with a pair of spike heels and look hard as nails (painted black, naturally) — then try making sense of the haute couture collections that previewed in Paris this week.

Haute couture is supposedly a dying art, yet the houses of Chanel, Lacroix and Balmain boast booming sales. Meanwhile, Givenchy and Dior have opted for the attention-seeking antics of Messrs Alexander McQueen and John Galliano as designers-in-chief respectively. The two British *enfants terribles* may well garner headlines, but will their provocative views of fashion suit the well-to-do women who are looking for a smart little two-piece for a mere £10,000, or something more extravagant, like the beaded Chinese coat-dress from Chanel which, last season, sold for more than £100,000?

What a dilemma! Should the designers simply create clothes tailor-made for their clients' needs and desires and run the risk of being described as *boring and dull*, or should they aim for front-page coverage by pandering to the press, only to find themselves accused of *theatricality and full-blown fantasy*?

McQueen was in such a quandary with his first collection for Givenchy and the resulting show fell somewhere between the two. His theme was classical mythology and he dressed his show accord-



CHANEL: (left) rough lace jackets. YVES SAINT LAURENT: unpretentious Parisian elegance



JEAN PAUL GAULTIER:

ingly — blonde muscle-bound cherubs, Icarus (a barely disguised Marcus Schenkenberg), languishing high above the audience, Pegasus (thankfully only on the soundtrack) and everything (except one silver-snake coat and one in black) cut in white and gold. Wearing drapery toga dresses encased in strict leather corsets, the models with their frayed hairdos, gilded faces and the occasional Minotaur horn looked not unlike extras from "Planet Olympia" in an early episode of *Star Trek*. Far from shocking with his cutting-edge vision, he displayed his razor-sharp tailoring skills in a collection that wouldn't scare a winged horse.

However, among the more obvious looks were exquisite McQueen moments: a plain white double-breasted trouser suit that revealed a cutaway back filled with a phoenix of golden lace; an ultra-slim dress with a coiled halter neck

and a tarnished gold satin dress twisted at the waist.

With all the hype surrounding Galliano's first show for Dior, and what with it being exactly 50 years since M Dior himself started the fashion world with his own New Look, it was never going to be an easy ride for the young Brit. Yet with a cool head and a sure hand he conjured up a collection from the exotic (chinoiserie in chartreuse and ebony satin, or an evening gown made from a Spanish shawl) to the sophisticated (waspy Prince of Wales suits and curvy jackets in white leather cutwork).

Overblown ballgown skirts and Boldini-style chiffon and lace evening gowns were charming, but aside from a playful steal from the Masai tribesman (brightly coloured beadwork) the collection lacked any sign of Galliano, the Urban Spaceman. He needs to get out more.

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

The expert couturier knows the exact measure of his or her customer and so the collection by Jean Paul Gaultier (who showed his first-ever couture collection this season) was full of fashion "jokes" — a driving-glove that becomes a jacket; spangly tutu dresses that roll up and fit into a handbag; and bejewelled denim. There were great stretch tuxedos, a heavily beaded pinstripe suit, and lots of kimono jackets.

The established names appear, quite sensibly, to have ignored the new boys on the boulevard and concentrated on making great clothes for their clients. Ungaro showed a fine-tuned collection, still clashing colour, pattern and fabric but with a softer touch. Best of all were plain day coats worn over colourful floral and lace slip dresses.

There were a few little numbers in the show of Christian Lacroix, which provided some truly fine moments, specifically outfit ten — a roughly woven jacket in flame red, with salmon and black T-shirt and Indian pink and gold skirt; outfit 19 — a paisley satin organza coat worn over a curly-coloured lamé two-piece; and outfit 20 — a fuchsia-red and gold lace T-shirt with matching heavy oriental silk skirt. These were Lacroix at his most triumphant and forward-thinking, but, for the most part, he chose to revisit past glories.

Valentino, Versace and Oscar de la Renta for Balmain offered some of the prettiest clothes of the week. The Orient provided inspiration for both Valentino and Balmain, while Versace looked to Spanish Harlem via *West Side Story*. Ruffles, layers of georgette and bouquets of flowers were fa-



CHRISTIAN LACROIX: outfit 19 provides a fine fashion moment for haute couture

miliar to all three. Frothy chiffon dresses appeared on the catwalks of each. Valentino continued to thrill with his ability to fuse the most fragile-looking fabrics while Versace offered beautifully draped, unembellished jersey suits with asymmetric outlines. De la Renta, who gets the prize for best bride of the week for his pretty-in-sugar-pink creation, also offered some of the sexiest looks in black lace.

There were no better shows than those of Yves Saint Laurent and Karl Lagerfeld, for Chanel. Both understand that the real pleasure of haute couture is the wearing of it (ask any woman who has). Neither courted the press with high jinks.

The Chanel look is all about pared-down chic with closely cut wool jackets matched with wide, flapping trousers or soft, see-through skirts. Scallop-edged dresses were panelled to hug the figure, while loose-woven tweedy pyjama suits and rough lace jackets were surely a witty double-take on the Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto's parody of the Chanel look.

It seems nothing stops Saint Laurent. His show was impeccable, from the tailored menswear-style suits to the frothy feathers and lace. This season the designer really scored after dark — draped pleated chiffon and colourful beadwork were special, but nothing could quite match the unpretentious elegance of his long, spare column dresses, sometimes worn with equally long open coats in navy, white, ice-blue, ultramarine and pink. Nothing could be simpler.

• Iain R. Webb is fashion director of *Elle* magazine.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE SURPRISE SCREEN HIT

Culture 11

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BRITISH...
Critic's choice
of the English
language drama

Find out on Sunday how an English love story has captured the hearts of American filmgoers and is a clear Oscar favourite

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



GIANNI VERSACE: pretty and frilly candybox florals

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A word in your ear, Mr Clarke

Stop waiting and start seeing, says Tim Congdon

Dear Ken, I am writing to you about Europe. But may I say at the start that in my opinion you have on the whole done a good job of managing the economy? Your period as Chancellor has seen the lowest inflation since the 1950s, as well as a substantial fall in unemployment.

If economic and monetary union were easy to implement and could be reconciled with Britain's continued existence as an independent nation, I would favour it. Unhappily, though, the difficulties are immense, not least because of different languages, scripts and so on. The total cost is clearly of the order of hundreds of billions of dollars. (I use "dollars" because — unlike euros — they are familiar, and — unlike euros — they exist.) You might reply that the costs could be justified as a one-off investment to secure the convenience of a single currency for future generations. But are the proposals for transition sensible?

May I suggest that you ask your officials to find out how long it takes to alter automated teller machines, shop till systems and banks' and retailers' software systems? Then compare this with the timetable for introducing the euro. Companies will be reluctant to buy new machines and employ programmers before mid-1998 because they don't know which countries will qualify, or whether the project will go ahead at all. Six months is much too short a period to carry out all the changes.

On an even more banal level, ask your finance ministry counterparts in Europe whether the costs of the massive necessary publicity campaigns are to be covered by the European Commission or by member governments, and inquire what provisions have been made. So far the amounts of money being spent are derisory.

Of course, these are points for humble engineers and admiring rather than great statesmen, but I am confident you will not be satisfied by the answers to such questions. With 1999 less than two years away, Europe's governments and peoples are not serious about the euro. Any rational and unbiased observer would say postponement is essential if the project is not to degenerate into farce.

But the crucial condition is the second one, the condition that the introduction of the new currency be compatible with the continued existence of Britain as an independent nation. Before Christmas you said in the Commons that "there is no Conservative politician who is a federalist", which presumably means that you are opposed to a European superstate.

You went on to say that talk about the creation of a superstate "arouses public fears and deprives the public of sensible information". I have to object. Leading German politicians, including Helmut Kohl, have said on many occasions that monetary union is a prelude to political union. And there is no previous example of significant sovereign nations sharing a single currency. Monetary union has always involved political union.

The central reason why monetary union must result in political union is simple. The management of a nation's currency is connected with the management of its public debt, and the management of public debt is inseparable from fiscal policy. Fiscal policy — the control of public expenditure and taxation — is the cherished prerogative of all national parliaments. It follows that monetary policy can be centralised only if fiscal policy is also centralised, and that is the end of national sovereignty.

Recent differences between Germany and France over fiscal sovereignty are minor compared with the implications of Germany's almost certain resistance to Italian participation. Despite harsh and very unpopular fiscal restraint in the past two years, the Italians have failed to reduce the ratio of public debt to national income. It is still above 120 per cent, more than twice the permitted rate.

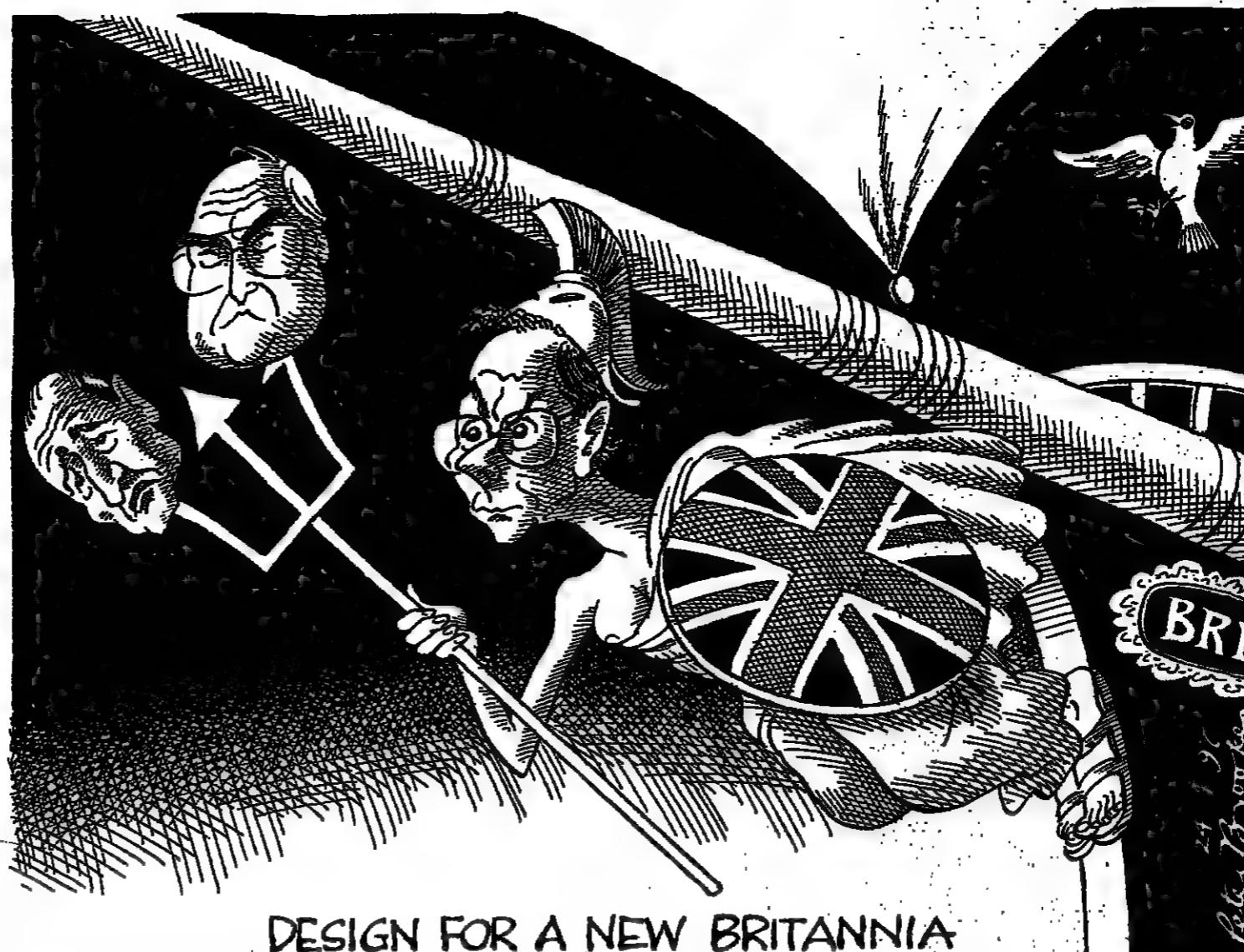
In Germany as in Britain, most of the public are opposed to the single currency. The political elite, which is almost entirely in favour, knows that it can push the project through only if Italy is excluded. But, if Italy is excluded, Spain, Portugal and Greece must be excluded too. These countries might be provoked into forming a blocking minority at the inter-governmental conference in 1998, which in theory could stop the whole project.

The cause of European integration is about to suffer its worst setback since the establishment of the Common Market in 1957. The economic and monetary union will fail. Ever since it was mooted in the late 1980s the key nations have been in a daydream. As the deadline approaches, they must wake up.

If you are a Europhile and believe in increased European integration (as the newspapers say), your duty is twofold. First, you must warn your friends in Europe to pull back before it is too late. Our semi-detached position will prove justified, but we must not crow. We don't want the collapse of monetary union to lead to financial instability in our neighbours. Financial instability followed by political instability had calamitous results for Europe in the 1920s and 1930s.

Secondly, you and Mr Major must abandon the wait-and-see policy for the good of the nation as well as for electoral advantage. Quite frankly, Britain's banks and retailers would have trouble getting prepared by 2002 (let alone 1999), even if we took an irrevocable commitment to go ahead now. But at a deeper level you and other finance ministers are not truly willing to hand over your fiscal powers to an as-yet unnamed central body in Brussels. This makes it certain that the single currency project will disintegrate. Nothing can be lost, and much can be gained, by immediately excluding Britain from any involvement in economic and monetary union for the lifetime of the next Parliament.

Yours, Tim.
The author is a member of the Treasury panel of independent forecasters.



DESIGN FOR A NEW BRITANNIA

All-party witch-hunt

The proposed paedophile register demeans us all and will protect no one

There are times when, struggling against the swell of public alarm, one begins to doubt one's own sanity. Is it really the rest of the world that is mad? This is how it must have felt to be a sceptic in Salem, Massachusetts, at the time of the witches.

Bernard Levin expressed the sense of exasperation in the 1960s, during a wave of press and public anxiety about decadence in high places. Lord Denning was hearing a government inquiry into such mysteries as the identity of the "headless man" in a Polaroid photograph of the lower half of a socialist partygoer, aroused by the attentions of the then Duchess of Argyll. One minister was persuaded by Lord Denning to submit his penis for examination in Harley Street.

"Even in years so copiously provided with material on which madness could feel fat," wrote Levin, "this was something so extraordinary, and in many ways so significant, that it deserves examination as detailed as that which the Minister underwent."

How, then, may we spot these madnesses early? Look out for the existence of an early nuptiale: all-party support.

And so to the Government's proposals for a "paedophile register", contained in the Home Secretary's Sex Offenders Bill, a slim tract of which the second Commons reading comes on Monday. Such is the offender-bashing imperative now gripping Britain that Michael Howard announced it to cheers at the Tory conference: his proposals have encountered quibbles but almost no principled opposition from any quarter. Someone has to blast this idiocy out of the water.

The plan is to force convicted or cautioned sexual offenders to register their addresses with the police, whenever and wherever they move, for a period varying between five years and the rest of their lives. The declared aim is to allow the police to keep an up-to-date register of the whereabouts of sex offenders. It will be available for consultation by prospective employers in cases where a job involves (for instance) contact with children. The Bill looks set to secure a speedy passage through the Commons, virtually unopposed.

There are concerns about details. As the declared aim is the protection of children, it appears strange that the crime of gross indecency — a consensual offence involving homosexuals over the age of consent and caught together in public places — should be included among the sex

offences subject to registration. The Stonewall Group is taking this up. It seems odd that an offence of which the police take so light a view as merely to caution the culprit nevertheless puts him on the list.

But these are secondary concerns. Few voices — and certainly not the Opposition's — have been raised to confront the central principle: that a great swathe of offenders who have served their sentences and returned — disgraced at the workplace, disgraced with landlords, disgraced among their families and their friends, and almost certainly unemployed — to try to begin their lives again, should now be bound to the 20th-century equivalent of the leper's bell. This is primitive nonsense. Will no one say so?

Look first at an idea put to Mr Howard which David Maclean, his Minister of State, says is for consideration. The police might be authorised — American-style — to notify local residents when a sex offender moves into the neighbourhood. One is left gasping in disbelief. Has Maclean read what happened recently to a man on the Garrets Green Estate in Birmingham when a housing officer allegedly tipped off neighbours that he had a conviction for sexual assault? The officer was suspended, and the Liberal Democrat councillor who supported him became a local hero. A lynch-mob atmosphere blew up. The man and his mother were forced to move. Where Mr Howard? Where are they supposed to go?

Look at what happens to sex offenders in prison at the hands of other prisoners. The instinct to stigmatise and hurt such people runs deep. Is it to be whipped up beyond the prison gates too?

Labelling people is always hateful.

Judged even against the crude humor of the gas chamber, there was something uniquely nasty about forcing Jews and homosexuals to display conspicuously and at all times the badges they were forced to sew onto their clothing. It is chilling to force a man to drag around with him an advertisement for something that others hate and he cannot change.

Apologists for the Home Secretary will object that although sex offenders are victims, they create victims of their own. Are these not our first concern? There is a clear answer to this. If we judge a person so dangerous that his neighbours must be warned about him, he should not be allowed back into the community. Telling neighbours hardly adds to their safety, but it does add to their anxiety, brand the individual, and breed horrific problems of its own.

The Bill places no limits on the use

of the police to make of the register, though the Home Secretary may.

But let us assume the Government reconsiders. Maclean's journey back into the Middle Ages. We are still left with the idea of local registration.

What of the police?

What of this?

I am mystified as to its purpose.

There is no practical possibility that police officers could in any meaningful sense "keep an eye" on all these people. These are some of the most private of crimes, rarely committed in the street. A better case could be

made for letting the local constabulary know when a former mugger

door-to-door woman, drink-driver,

drug-dealer or inflictor of grievous bodily harm moves into their area; here the information might just prove useful in the panda car or on the beat.

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Look first at an idea put to Mr Howard which David Maclean, his Minister of State, says is for consideration. The police might be authorised — American-style — to notify local residents when a sex offender moves into the neighbourhood. One is left gasping in disbelief. Has Maclean read what happened recently to a man on the Garrets Green Estate in Birmingham when a housing officer allegedly tipped off neighbours that he had a conviction for sexual assault? The officer was suspended, and the Liberal Democrat councillor who supported him became a local hero. A lynch-mob atmosphere blew up. The man and his mother were forced to move. Where Mr Howard? Where are they supposed to go?

Look at what happens to sex offenders in prison at the hands of other prisoners. The instinct to stigmatise and hurt such people runs deep. Is it to be whipped up beyond the prison gates too?

Labelling people is always hateful.

Judged even against the crude humor of the gas chamber, there was something uniquely nasty about forcing Jews and homosexuals to display conspicuously and at all times the badges they were forced to sew onto their clothing. It is chilling to force a man to drag around with him an advertisement for something that others hate and he cannot change.

There are concerns about details.

As the declared aim is the protection of children, it appears strange that the crime of gross indecency — a consensual offence involving homosexuals over the age of consent and caught together in public places — should be included among the sex

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Philip Howard

RULING OUT

Labour should now step up to the Tory line

Signs abound that the Conservatives are preparing for an early election. Populist announcements tumble out of the government machine after the new Royal Yacht *Britannia*, the permanent incarceration of Myra Hindley and the expansion of the cordon force, comes a policy on the single currency that may yet unite the Tory party and win over voters in time for the only poll that matters.

On paper, the single currency position has not changed. Britain still has the option to join in the first wave in January 1999. But all the stress yesterday was on the improbability of that happening. The argument that ministers were using now is as follows. If EMU begins at all (which is not certain), it will almost certainly be on the basis of fudged convergence criteria. Britain will not join if the criteria have been fudged. Ergo, Britain is "highly unlikely" to join.

Ever since John Major ruled out rolling our membership for the lifetime of the next Parliament, this was his clear escape route. Even Kenneth Clarke could be persuaded that it would not be in Britain's interest to join a single currency whose members' convergence was not sustainable. But the Chancellor had been holding out until yesterday, claiming that it was not possible at this stage to judge whether the criteria would or would not be met.

Mr Clarke has now been overruled, and not before time. The convergence of the member states that want to join the currency has long been as unsustainable as the Chancellor's position. As a last gasp, Mr Clarke can claim that Britain's option to join remains. Yesterday he was determined to emphasise the unlikelihood of EMU going ahead

rather than the unlikelihood of Britain being part of it. But it is clear to all that the chances of this country joining the first wave under a Tory government are now infinitesimal.

This was confirmed by the news later in the day that the first Queen's Speech after an election (if the Conservatives won) would contain no legislation relating to the single currency. Given that, by the end of 1998, the Government would have to have legislated to make the Bank of England independent, to reverse Britain's opt-out and to hold a referendum if it had decided to join, this undertaking hardens the position still further.

In political terms, the decision may eventually help Mr Clarke. His party has seen him as the only obstacle to a sensible and unifying policy on EMU. If the Tories had lost the election with their previous version of the "wait and see" position, the Chancellor would have been blamed. This shift is a sign that, at least, he is willing to accept rather than fight against political reality.

It would of course be preferable if the Government expressed principled rather than pragmatic opposition to EMU. But this new position will make it easier for all Conservative candidates to issue roughly similar election addresses. The onus is now on Labour to respond. As *The Times* reported last October, Tony Blair too thinks it unlikely that he would join the first wave. Many voters would like that position made public. Choosing a party to govern the country for five years is a big enough task. Electing a party that might do something irreversible is momentous. Mr Blair now owes it to the electorate to spell out where he stands on the most critical question to face the country in decades.

RIFKIND'S SOAPBOX

A voter-friendly British message for jobless Europe

At first sight, Malcolm Rifkind's judgment that it is time for Britain "to take the debate on Europe to Europe" may seem little short of bizarre. A Government which has spent the past three years insisting that the debate on Europe's future was moving Britain's way must surely have been arguing its case in foreign capitals. Yet his sense of timing is less bizarre than it appears; and the words are well chosen because what he means by them is a departure from relying almost entirely on the traditional methods of fighting Britain's corner in corridors and chanceries.

Yesterday's Cabinet decision on a single currency supplies the vital missing ingredient in a Conservative policy towards the European Union that, at long last, can be presented as both coherent and solidly in the middle of the national consensus. Thus armed, Mr Rifkind is readying "a new diplomacy", which he hopes will reach out beyond the continental policymaking élites to open up a genuine citizens' debate about the future of the nation state; the loyalty a federal Europe could command and whether ordinary people understand just what their leaders mean by deeper European integration.

Most subversively, because this is a question their own politicians avoid putting, he believes that Britain could encourage people in France, Germany and elsewhere in the EU to ask themselves what they personally stand to gain, and to lose, from plans to accentuate the supranational character of the Union.

As Klaus Kinkel recently discovered when he offered Britain a bit of unsolicited advice at the new year, Mr Rifkind is embarking on territory where even angels must pick their way. Yet his assessment that now is Britain's moment to refresh the European debate makes sense.

To be effective, any message requires a minimum of readiness to listen on the part of the audience, and until recently, a British accent was enough to deprive the best

argument of most of its force. But in today's Europe, British pragmatism and Britain's scepticism about Europe's federal destiny no longer inspire the slightly patronising jokes about "isolationism" that they did in the immediate aftermath of Maastricht.

That is because where Britain is currently most obviously isolated is in its successful bucking of the continental race's progress to massive, seemingly unshiftable, unemployment in France, Italy, Spain and even Germany. Much of this is attributable to long years of public overspending, coupled with layers of social protection that have frozen labour markets, and a reliance on state corporatism that as Mr Rifkind suggested to French businessmen last night, has roots in the hard years of postwar reconstruction.

But politically, what matters is that governments have blamed the need to meet the Maastricht criteria for EMU to justify reforms they are compelled to undertake. With youth unemployment at 27 per cent in France, 33 per cent in Italy and 42 per cent in Spain, Maastricht is currently about as popular as is the International Monetary Fund in African kleptocracies. In France, where the schism between public and political élite is in the open, the chief beneficiary of the Government's unpopularity is Jean-Marie Le Pen's ultra-nationalist party. Once the French public grasps that EMU will not mean the end of austerity, there could be a social explosion.

A British Foreign Secretary cannot and should not fan fire. But he can press home the essential British message that accountability within the nation state is the bedrock of democracy, which is ignored at Europe's wider peril. He could win converts, too, to the idea that a "flexible" Europe must genuinely respect the diversity of its members. Without playing John Bull in Europe's china shop, it is worth testing his proposition that Britain's view of Europe is closer to that of ordinary Europeans than their political masters like to believe.

UNSTABLE POLICY

The arts need national popularity more than lottery money

Yesterday, the Arts Council of England turned a significant corner. Whichever way its new, woefully named "stabilisation programme" is dressed up, its prime aim is to divert some National Lottery proceeds away from building projects and into the more urgent matter of keeping the country's hard-pressed theatres, orchestras and opera companies in business.

The task is enormous. Britain's regional theatres have run up a combined £3 million deficit. The Royal Opera House and English National Opera are each £3 million in the red. Famous orchestras survive only because their bankers' are patient and enjoy Brahms.

The Arts Council is keen to deny that it is using lottery money simply to bail out a bunch of losers. Nevertheless, the stabilisation programme does channel lottery money into tasks that the Arts Council, in earlier days, might reasonably have expected its government grant to cover. The Arts Council has ventured down this path only with caution (just £5 million will be committed to stabilisation next year), suggesting that it is well aware of the political dangers ahead.

Having broken the earlier rule that lottery money should be used only for capital projects, the Arts Council may find itself pressed to raid its lottery coffers more and more for urgently needed funds. It now receives about £250 million each year from the lottery,

compared with only £186 million from the Government. The list of worthwhile building projects on which to spend the lottery windfall is not infinite. The pressure for emergency funding would probably increase under a Labour government.

To place our world-class performers entirely at the mercy of a source of revenue as unpredictable as the lottery would be irresponsible and short-sighted. It would send the wrong signals to the world about the social and cultural values considered important by the British Government. But if the Arts Council is to continue to receive a fifth of the lottery's profits it must quickly find good new ways of using the money. As the recent outcry over English National Opera's plan for a new theatre showed, public opinion has turned strongly against the building of yet more culture palaces for the middle classes.

The answer is to launch an all-out campaign to attract new audiences, particularly among the young. British performers, artists and writers are among the best in the world; we are properly proud when they win international prizes. Now they must fight for the most important prize of all, the widespread support of their own compatriots. Fifty years of state subsidy have not, so far, brought that prize within the reach of serious culture. Popularisation, not stabilisation, should be the Arts Council's new watchword.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Fear of genetically modified foods

From the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Iceland Group

Sir, Not being a scientist, technologist, or biochemist makes me eminently qualified to discuss the fashionable issue of genetically modified foods. All the screeds of scientific evidence and the deliberations of food experts lack one essential ingredient — the commonsense view of the normal consumer.

Like most scientific experiments, genetically modifying foods started with the best of intentions. If plants can be made less resistant to disease and herbicide weedkillers can be used more sparingly, this must be good: more food to feed the Third World and a more environmentally friendly approach to farming.

The principle must be applauded, but in practice we are corrupting nature and we have sufficient evidence to show that nature fights back — salmonella, listeria, BSE. The so-called experts allowed dead sheep to be eaten by herbivores — and we were used as human guinea-pigs.

Whilst most of us are still struggling to understand the terminology, the chances are we're already eating genetically modified foods. Tomato paste and some cheeses are currently available in supermarkets; they have generally been claimed to have enhanced flavour qualities at more competitive prices and have been labelled as being "genetically modified". The consumer has hitherto had a clear choice.

We are now faced with a different problem: labelling may no longer be an option, largely because of the creation of a genetically modified soya bean by the chemical multinational Monsanto in America. With the sanction of the US food authorities, this has been raised with natural soya and put into worldwide distribution, and it will thus become impossible for manufacturers and retailers to know the true source of the soya in their products and to label them accordingly.

Genetically modified maize is also winging its way over the "pond": same problem, different company — Ciba-Geigy — but potentially more of a threat. Maize has been genetically modified to make it resistant to the European corn-borer pest, but this process may make animals feeding on the maize resistant to antibiotics: a classic case of solving one problem only to create another.

It is totally unacceptable that American companies should dictate to us in this way. We must demand total traceability for all food and clear labelling. Natural and genetically modified foods must, in the future, be separated at source and processed, transported and utilised in food manufacturing accordingly.

Government action is needed on two counts: we must know the source of products and labelling must be mandatory. By genetically modifying foods we are messing with the building blocks of life.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM C. WALKER,
Chairman and Chief Executive,
Iceland Group plc,
Second Avenue,
Deside Industrial Park,
Deside, Flintshire.
January 17.

Leaving hospital

From Mr D. L. Crosby

Sir, Mr Nigel Harris (letter, January 16) is incorrect that the discharge of patients from hospital is the sole responsibility of a doctor. Quite rightly, the local social services department may veto medical discharges if satisfactory home or community care has not been arranged.

This is a much more common problem than patients being sent out of hospital before they are sufficiently well. At any time, at least 10 per cent of hospital beds are occupied by people who would not need to do so were it not for their lack of social support.

Obviously, this is a major cause of both the hospital bed shortage and the pressure to discharge other patients the moment they appear well enough to go home.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CROSBY (Chairman),
Cardiff Community Healthcare,
Trelawnyd,
Fairwater Road, Llandaff, Cardiff.
January 20.

Winning colours

From Mr P. R. Smith

Sir, Mr Alan Shuback (letter, January 18) states that, despite numerous kit changes, the England football team has only won one World Cup — a competition involving the whole world and culminating in finals played in a different country and continent every four years, whereas the New York Yankees have won 23 World Series — an annual competition involving only North American baseball teams — without the aid of a kit change.

To be fair, a comparable competition would be the Home International Championship that sadly ended in 1984, which England won 34 times and shared a further 20 times.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. SMITH,
5 Ashworth Close,
Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Tide of opinion on proposal to replace Britannia

From Mr William Jory

Sir, The British taxpayer will green the news of a replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* with dismay (reports and leading article, January 23). For over a quarter of a century *Britannia* was financed by our always-stretched defence budget as a hospital ship, but was never used as one, being kept away from the Falklands and Gulf Wars. In the former, 800 schoolchildren were taken off an educational voyage on the *Uganda* and she was displaced instead.

Now, according to your leader, a replacement would be justified for her "value to exports alone". If this is the true justification for the ship, surely businessmen, so keen to promote their own goods aboard her, could finance, build and run their own "royal" yacht. This could then be leased to the Royal Family when required. Other successful exporting nations appear to manage very well without such a yacht.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM JORY,
The Old House, Michelmersh,
Nr Romsey, Hampshire.
January 23.

From Mrs E. A. Raisman

Sir, The Royal Yacht *Britannia* is not a perk for the Royal Family. It is an embassy ship. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family are our most sought-after roving ambassadors. We do not expect business to pay for our embassies even though a major part of their work is to promote British business. This helps to promote national prosperity. It is for the State that is the taxpayer, to pay.

Our standing is judged by the quality of our representation. We should not stint in its presentation.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE RAISMAN,
Netheravon House,
Netheravon Road South, W4.

From Captain Richard Sharpe, RN,
Editor of Jane's Fighting Ships

Sir, So shipbuilders are delighted that there is to be a new royal yacht. In the absence of orders to meet long-established MoD requirements for replacement submarines and air defence destroyers, the few shipyards we have left are forced to grab at any straw that is available.

Public debate on the Royal Navy seems mostly concerned with *Britannia* and the fate of Greenwich and Admiralty Arch, all of which are important to our national heritage and self-esteem, but contribute nothing in a military sense to the defence of vital maritime interests.

Is the future of the Services to be an issue in the general election campaign? Or are we content to take on the political assurances that our Armed Forces will continue to be the "best" in the world, while arguing fiercely about who pays for a new royal yacht?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SHARPE,
Editor,
Jane's Fighting Ships,
Foundry House,
Kingsley, Bordon, Hampshire.
January 22.

From Commander Nick Messinger,
Editor of Tali Ship International

Sir, Your editorial today concerning the planned replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* is to be commended. Why not a "majestic, square-rigged sailing ship"? She would indeed be more eye-catching than any motorised yacht.

There is a global renaissance in tall ships and this once pre-eminent maritime nation of ours richly deserves its own Class A fully-rigged ship. Besides, just about every other maritime nation worth its salt has one.

However, I find it difficult to justify

such enormous expense, £60 million, entirely from the public purse. But if such a vessel could be subsidised by British industry, and manned by the youth of Great Britain, then I'm sure the project would achieve my full support.

Young people, from all walks of life, could compete to sail in her as crew. What a magnificent accolade for Duke of Edinburgh Award winners and top "Queen's Cadets" from the newly proposed school corps.

Yours sincerely,
NICK MESSINGER,
Editor,
Tall Ship International,
Guglestone Farm, Stalbridge, Dorset.
January 23.

From Mr H. W. Coake

Sir, How is it that the Government can say that the new *Britannia* will be built in a British shipyard? Surely EU procurement regulations require that contracts for goods and services over approximately £150,000 and for works over £4 million be put out to tender?

Yours faithfully,
H. W. COAKE,
570 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh.
January 23.

From Mr Robin Watson

Sir, I found it disturbing that on the same day as your headline proclaims the £60 million funding of a replacement for *Britannia*, my local paper's headline warned of the closure of 23 libraries in Kent. The reason for the closures, apparently, is the cutback in central government funding to the county council.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WATSON,
The Old Vicarage,
Underhill, nr Sevenoaks, Kent.
January 23.

Comparative art

From Mr Dennis Berry

Sir, I usually read Richard Cork's writings on contemporary art with amusement, but his comments on Tony Cragg's current exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery ("Beauty found in our daily junk", Arts, January 14) I am afraid go beyond such indulgent toleration.

To suggest that Cragg is in any way reminiscent of Leonardo, with whom he is united because of their instinctive fascination with science, is preposterous. So it was all due to the time Cragg spent working as a laboratory technician? Junk indeed!

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS BERRY,
11 Fairacre,
Acacia Grove,
New Malden, Surrey.
January 15.

Soft fruit?

From Mr John B. Harris

Sir, When I played it was lemons at half-time for rugger (report, January 18). Oranges were for girls' hockey.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. HARRIS,
15 Charlwell House,
12 Ladbrooke Terrace, W11.
January 19.

Water buffalo

From Dr Simon Strickland

Sir, One should not be dissuaded from farming buffalo by their purported unwholesome habits or unpredictable temperament (letters, January 7, 13, 17).

Although having never moved more speedily than when being charged by an irate bull that, about to be slaughtered for a Gurkha funeral, broke its tether as I attempted to take its photograph, I have often enjoyed buff steaks, fresh creamy milk and yogurts in the Middle Hills of Nepal. Moreover, the wonders of its hide are not to be underestimated: my buffalo-skin wallet, made in England and purchased in 19



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 22: By Command of The Queen, Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Jiang Zemin at 49 Portland Place, London W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the People's Republic of China to the Court of St James's.

Her Majesty was represented by the Earl of Courtown (Lord in Waiting) at the Memorial Service for Sir Roderick Barclay (formerly Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium) which was held in St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, London SW1, today.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 22: The Prince of Wales, Patron, SENIOR, The National Deafblind and Rubella Association, this morning visited Woodside Family Centre, Kingswood, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset (Sir John Wills, Bt).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 22: The Prince of Wales today visited the Centre for Advanced Religious and Theological Studies, Cambridge, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridge (Mr James Crowden).

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 22: The Duke of Gloucester this evening opened the exhibition "The Palace", architectural works from the collection of Cambridge University Library, at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, President of the Prince's Royal Trust for Carers, will visit Stirling Carers Centre, The Northern MacSwiney Centre, 41 Cameronian Street, Upper Craigs, Stirling, at 1.00, and will attend the Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils' national seminar and annual meeting at the Sukis Dunblane Hydro, Perth Road, Dunblane, at 2.30.

Oxford & Bermondsey Club

To mark the centenary of the Oxford and Bermondsey Club, a service of re-dedication will be held in Southwark Cathedral on Thursday 20th January. A reception will be held in Glaziers' Hall afterwards. Admission is by ticket only. Will all friends of the OBC who would like to attend please contact the Events Organiser, Oxford & Bermondsey Club, 3 Webb Street, SE1 4RP.

Admiral Arthur Phillip

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Sheriff and Mrs Keith Knowles, with the Deputy High Commissioner for Australia, attended the annual commemoration service for Admiral Arthur Phillip, founder and first governor of New South Wales, held yesterday at St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside. Mr Julian Jeffs, QC, gave an address. A luncheon was held afterwards at Grocers' Hall.

balance and Nursing Cadets, later opened the new Training and Resource Centre and Ambulance Station at the Harry Crook Centre, Raleigh Road, Bedminster, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Bristol (Mr James Tidmarsh).

The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, this afternoon opened the Bath and District Citizens Advice Bureau, 2 Edgar Buildings, Bath, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset (Sir John Wills, Bt).

AMONG others present were:

Mrs Andrew Palmer (daughter), Mr and Mrs David Keown-Boyd and Mr and Mrs Christopher Harley (son-in-law and daughter), Mr Joe Hayes (daughter), Mr Alan Campbell, Miss Rosanna Barclay, Roderick Barclay, Mr Roddy Simpson, Mr William Keown-Boyd, Mr and Mrs Alan Gray, Mr Robert Garside, Mr Philip Harley, Dr John Harley, Mr Philip

HARLEY, Mr. Rod Palmer, Viscount Gainsborough, Mr and Mrs Peter Parker, Mr and Mrs Oliver Barclay, Dr and Mrs Alec Barclay (half-brothers and half-sisters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Barry Barclay.

Sir Roderick Barclay

The Queen was represented by the Earl of Courtown at a memorial service for Sir Roderick Barclay held yesterday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Mr Nicolas Adamson.

The Rev Christopher Courtauld officiated and the Rev Rachel Benson, cousin, led the prayers. The Right Rev Robin Woods pronounced the blessing.

Mr Joe Barclay, son, Mr Adrian Harley, grandson, and Mrs Henrietta Simpson, granddaughter, read the lessons. Mr Andrew Palmer, son-in-law, gave an address. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Margarson and the Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service by Mr Peter Tory. The Belgian Chargé d'Affaires was present. Mr Henrik Sørensen represented the Danish Embassy.

Among others present were:

Mrs Andrew Palmer (daughter), Mr and Mrs David Keown-Boyd and Mr and Mrs Christopher Harley (son-in-law and daughter), Mr Joe Hayes (daughter), Mr Alan Campbell, Miss Rosanna Barclay, Roderick Barclay, Mr Roddy Simpson, Mr William Keown-Boyd, Mr and Mrs Alan Gray, Mr Robert Garside, Mr Philip Harley, Dr John Harley, Mr Philip

HARLEY, Mr. Rod Palmer, Viscount Gainsborough, Mr and Mrs Peter Parker, Mr and Mrs Oliver Barclay, Dr and Mrs Alec Barclay (half-brothers and half-sisters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Barry Barclay.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Huntingdonshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

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The Lord-Lieutenant of Yorkshire (also representing the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire), Sir John Morris, Dr Michael Williams, Sir Timothy Hayter, Lady Holderness, Lady Hatherley, Adeline Lady Ampthill, Sir Michael Pallister, Lady Caroline Ampthill, Lady Margaret, Lady Mary, Lady Hon. Mrs Mallock, Sir Hugh and Lady Ripon, Sir John Grenaway, Sir Edward Evans-Lombe, Elizabeth Lady Williams, Sir Philip Woods.

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NEWS

Major rules out EMU in 1999

■ John Major effectively ruled out British membership of a single European currency in 1999 with a hardened Cabinet line intended to unite the Tories in the run-up to the election.

The Government's most sceptical stance yet on monetary union was announced after a 90-minute Cabinet debate yesterday. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said it was "very unlikely" that Britain would sign up to the euro on the target date of January 1, 1999. — Pages 1, 12, 14, 23

Girl was denied transplant

■ Michelle Paul, 15, died after she was refused a liver transplant by doctors at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on the "moral grounds" that she had experimented with drugs and her mother was a drug user, the mother told an inquiry. The family doctor supported her evidence. — Page 1

Tape ruled invalid

A man who was secretly taped confessing to his wife that he had tried to poison her walked free from the Old Bailey after a judge ruled the recording was inadmissible as evidence. — Page 3

Gang smashed

A gang believed to have smuggled more than 5,000 illegal immigrants into Britain, earning £20,000 a week, has been uncovered by a joint police operation in Britain and Holland. — Page 4

Spy murder theory

Sir Jack Drummond, murdered with his family in 1953 during a camping trip in the South of France, was the victim of a Soviet counter-espionage hit squad, according to a new book. — Page 5

Cadets under fire

Labour claimed that government proposals to encourage schoolchildren to become military cadets could cost taxpayers more than £1.5 billion. — Page 6

No more arts cash

The Arts Council provoked protests by announcing the share-out of its £186.1 million 1997 grant, which gives most clients no increase. — Pages 8, 23, 39

Off the road

Peaceful protests on public highways can be banned by the police, the High Court ruled in a test case of new public order legislation. — Page 10

Eigg may be poached for a song

■ The sale of Eigg, population 63, descended into confusion when it was claimed that the tenor Luciano Pavarotti was interested in setting up a European classical and operatic music college for 3,000 pupils on the Hebridean isle. Highland Council said the scheme was unsuitable and the islanders denounced it as absurd. — Page 1

Alzheimer's clue

The discovery that some people with traces of the cold sore virus in their brains are at much greater risk from Alzheimer's disease could point to a way of preventing it, scientists say. — Page 27

Euro-fighters

Germany's 17 million increasing-militant old age pensioners are emerging as the country's most powerful opponents to introducing the euro and scrapping the German mark. — Pages 14, 23

Papon for trial

The French Supreme Court ruled that Maurice Papon, the alleged Nazi collaborator, should be tried for crimes against humanity. His trial has been delayed for 15 years. — Page 16

Visa corruption

Metropolitan Police detectives are investigating widespread corruption concerning the sale of British visas to Nigerians. Scotland Yard confirmed. — Page 17

Clinton revelations

President Clinton's second-term honeymoon ended abruptly in a series of embarrassing revelations about American policy favours being sold. — Page 18

Sinn Fein donor

Sinn Fein's single largest contributor in America, an Irish-American businessman, has had to disclose records of donations to many Irish causes. — Page 19

Weather

Peaceful protests on public highways can be banned by the police, the High Court ruled in a test case of new public order legislation. — Page 10

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Highest & Lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 11C (25); lowest day temp: Edzell, Dundee and Gowrie, 0C (32); highest rainfall: Cape Town, Western Cape, 0.46C; highest sunheight: Some Bay, Kent, 5.5hr

Today: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 11C (25); lowest day temp: Edzell, Dundee and Gowrie, 0C (32); highest rainfall: Cape Town, Western Cape, 0.46C; highest sunheight: Some Bay, Kent, 5.5hr

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Jersey 0.1 0.37

Guernsey 0.1 0.37

Ireland 0.1 0.33

Wales 0.1 0.33

Leeds 0.3 0.01

Liverpool 0.3 0.01

London 0.3 0.01

Nottingham 0.3 0.01

Sheffield 0.3 0.01

Southampton 0.3 0.01

Weymouth 0.3 0.